

Inflation rate at 19.1% highest level since 1976

ation is at its highest for four years; the 1.4 cent increase in the retail prices index in February sent the annual inflation rate up to 19.1 per cent and it seems likely to go over 20 per cent. Manufacturers are under severe pressure as increased costs and their ability to absorb it is limited by the squeeze on profits.

More price rises in pipeline

David Blake, Economics Editor, says that the big rise in prices in February sent the annual inflation rate up to 19.1 per cent, the highest for four years. The inflationary picture is certain to get worse, as the annual rate of price rises likely to go over 20 per cent by June, but after that there should be some easing for the Government. The impact of its increases is likely to be felt in the value-added tax last June when the retail price index rose to 19.1 per cent. However, inflation is likely to ease well into double figures until 1982. A 1.4 per cent increase in the index in February under the inflationary pressures Chancellor has to contend with as he draws up his budget for presentation to the House of Commons on March 26. The special effects of the price movements over the six months are examined, as is usually taken as the ruling rate of inflation, was moving up in February, 1.8 per cent, an annual rate compared with 14.5 per cent in January. Further increases are in the pipeline. Wholesale prices, which have risen by 1.5 per cent over the last six months, are expected to rise further. The cost of raw materials is also going up at an alarming rate, with the annual rate

Rush into dollars as banks set record rates

By Caroline Atkinson
The dollar made big gains against all major currencies in the foreign exchange markets yesterday ahead of the anti-inflation measures being announced by President Carter this morning. Speculators continued to pour money into dollars as American banks raised their prime lending rates to a record 18.5 per cent. Dealers were divided over how long-lived the dollar's rise would be. Some believed the market might be disappointed by President Carter's anti-inflation package. There were hopes that the American discount rate would rise by 2 points to a record of 15 per cent. Other dealers felt that the high returns now available on dollars meant that money would be attracted into the American currency for some time. Central banks in Europe and Japan again attempted to limit the fall of their currencies against the dollar. The West German federal bank intervened to the tune of \$125m, believed to be a record amount. The gold price fell sharply yesterday in reaction to the dollar's strength, touching its lowest point since Christmas Eve in European trading. However, gold picked up later in the day from below \$500 an ounce to close in London at \$530. This was a fall of \$25 in the day after a drop of \$32 on Thursday, and it was the lowest closing level for gold this year. The gold price has now dropped by more than \$300 an ounce from its peak levels in late January, but most bullion dealers believe it will rise again in the coming months. Despite the action of the central bank, the Deutsche mark fell back against the dollar to its lowest level since last autumn. It closed at DM1.8325 to the dollar, down from DM1.8210 on Thursday. The Bonn government is now trying to attract more money into the country to stop the mark from slipping further. There were reports yesterday that it would soon announce that it had obtained a DM10,000m loan from oil exporting countries. These reports were not confirmed. The obvious next step in a policy of encouraging capital inflows. The pound fell sharply yesterday morning but recovered to finish at \$2.2145, down 85 points on the day. But against an average of other currencies the pound was up by 0.1 point at 72.2 per cent of its end-1971 value. Top banks raise prime rates, page 17



Thatcher protest: The Prime Minister, escorted by Mr Michael Eaton, the National Coal Board's North Yorkshire area director, went underground at Wistow pit site, Selby, yesterday during her tour of Yorkshire and Humberside. Steel strikers, miners, and housewives had intended to mount a demonstration but were outwitted and outnumbered by the police. Later demonstrators hurled eggs at her car in Hull. Eight people were charged with disorderly conduct. Report, page 2

Mrs Thatcher helps the Tories to lick their by-election wounds

By Michael Hatfield, Political Reporter
Despite the brave face being put on by some ministers, there was no doubt that the Government was internally bruised by the by-election results. At Southend, East, where the Conservative candidate managed to scrape home on a majority of 430 votes. Mr Edward (Teddy) Taylor, a former junior Conservative minister, proved the victor, but at the same time confirmed the seat, which commanded an 11,000 majority in the general election, had changed by some mysterious political and electoral chemistry into a marginal. Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the Conservative Party, ducked the implications of the effect on party morale in a statement yesterday. He said: "We are satisfied to have won what was at times an unpleasant by-election campaign, characterized by the usual attacks on the Government. Further, it came at a time when the Government is offering some tough but much-needed medicine. We have a responsible Government, willing to face up to our deep-seated problems. Teddy Taylor fought a brave campaign. He returns to Parliament to join a party which will press forward doing what is needed to be done for the sake of the nation." Lord Thorneycroft's statement, designed to shine the light away from what ministers know was taking place in Southend, East, contrasted sharply with the natural jubilation of the Labour Party. The result was a "massive jolt for Mrs Thatcher's Government and represented a rejection of Thatcherism". Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, stated. It showed that the people of Southend shared the view of people throughout Britain that Tory policies were stoking up inflation, throwing thousands out of work, and depleting important community services. Liberals also felt a sense of satisfaction at the result, particularly as their organization is not strongly represented in the constituency. Their candidate, Mr David Evans, almost doubled the Liberal vote, taking the party's share of the poll from 13 per cent to 25 per cent. Questions remain to be answered by the Conservative leadership. Senior politicians had been warned that the Tory majority might be reduced to about 3,000, but few expected the margin of victory to be as thin as this. Whatever gloss may be put on the win, the bald statistics show that the Government has been given a stern message by the party faithful. The Tory share of the votes dropped from 56.1 per cent to 36.8 (a fall of 19.3 per cent). Labour's share rose from 29.1 per cent to 35.6 (a plus of 6.5) and the Liberals moved from 13.1 per cent to 25.1 (an increase of 12 per cent). Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, who was touring the Selby constituency yesterday, showed qualities of realpolitik when asked for her comments on the result: "We won as far as the by-election is concerned. There is no substitute for victory, and that is what we got." It was the kind of balm that any party needs when it is licking its wounds. Analysis, and photograph, page 2 Leader, page 15

Mugabe compromise on April 18 for Zimbabwe handover

From Dan van der Var, Salisbury, March 14
Zimbabwe will become independent at midnight on April 17-18, a spokesman for Lord Soames, the Governor, said here today. Prince Charles will take part in the handover ceremony on April 18, it was also learned. Lord Soames leaves here for a short visit to London on Sunday when he will seek help for postwar reconstruction to leave London on Wednesday. His deputy, Sir Antony Duff, will be in charge in his absence. Mr Robert Mugabe wanted Lord Soames to stay longer and was prepared to wait for independence until his untried ministers had time to read themselves in. Today's announcement is therefore a compromise acceptable to both parties. Lord Soames will not be staying on in any capacity after independence. Lord Soames told British correspondents at Government House today that he had originally planned to hand over to the new Government at the end of this month and be back in London by Easter. "But the Prime Minister was most pressing that we should stay on longer. This shows how intelligent he is. He has never been involved in government, nor have his people. He recognizes the difficulties involved in taking over." The Governor made it clear he had every sympathy for Mr Mugabe's desire to have "some of the Rhodesian security forces and the ZANLA and ZIPRA guerrilla armies. Many guerrillas would be disappointed that there was no room for them in the coming national army, but military considerations had had nothing to do with the delay of independence. Lord Soames expressed his pleasure at progress so far in the integration of the Rhodesian security forces and the ZANLA and ZIPRA guerrilla armies. Many guerrillas would be disappointed that there was no room for them in the coming national army, but military considerations had had nothing to do with the delay of independence. Lord Soames expressed his pleasure at progress so far in the integration of the Rhodesian security forces and the ZANLA and ZIPRA guerrilla armies. Many guerrillas would be disappointed that there was no room for them in the coming national army, but military considerations had had nothing to do with the delay of independence.

Romania joins Britain in criticizing Moscow

Bucharest, March 14.—Romania, a Warsaw Pact member, issued a joint statement with Britain today implicitly condemning the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and calling on Moscow to negotiate a solution. [Moscow] hinted today that it was about to announce a new political initiative on Afghanistan. Full report, page 4. The Bucharest statement, issued at the end of a two-day visit here by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was by far the toughest criticism of the intervention from within the Soviet bloc. At Romania's insistence, Afghanistan was not mentioned by name but Bucharest left no doubt of its fear that the crisis might wreck East-West détente, informed sources said. The statement expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the international situation "as a result of policies based on force... a violation of national independence." Britain and Romania "agree on the urgent need to halt the deterioration in world affairs, to settle international crises and to resume the policy of détente throughout the world to the benefit of all", the statement added. Lord Carrington told reporters yesterday that Romania and the West were broadly in agreement on Afghanistan. Informed sources reported that in the talks Romania also strongly condemned Soviet support for the Kampuchea-backed take-over in Kampuchea—Reuter.

L swings from profit to loss of £122.2m

Clifford Webb made a loss before tax of £122.2m compared with a profit of £1.7m in 1978. The troubled car side was the first to hit with a swing of £100m, from a profit of £1.7m to a loss of £122.2m. The loss is at least £20m more than even the most pessimistic forecasts. Announcing the group's preliminary results yesterday, Sir Michael Edwards, the chairman, had more dismal news. He said that BL Cars would suffer a further loss this year. He also revealed that at the end of his term as chairman of the group, he would be leaving the company. The group's results for 1979 were a loss of £122.2m, compared with a profit of £1.7m in 1978. The loss is at least £20m more than even the most pessimistic forecasts. Announcing the group's preliminary results yesterday, Sir Michael Edwards, the chairman, had more dismal news. He said that BL Cars would suffer a further loss this year. He also revealed that at the end of his term as chairman of the group, he would be leaving the company. 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HOME NEWS

Abortion Bill ends its unhappy saga with criticism of sponsor

Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The unhappy saga of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which has ended yesterday in the Commons as opponents and supporters of the measure have both expressed their disapproval of the sponsor, Mr. Peter Archer.

Mr. Archer, an opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that if ever sponsors deserved to lose their Bill it was the sponsors of this one after the way they had behaved.

Mr. John Morris, opposition spokesman on legal affairs, claimed that it was the intolerant attitude of some MPs which had jeopardized the Bill.

Another Labour backbencher, Mr. Ian Mikardo, remarked that if there was to be some sort of compromise solution he feared it would have to be on another occasion. The chance of getting it in this session had been missed.

Mr. Mikardo, a supporter of the two-week solution, said that Mr. John Corrie, the Bill's sponsor, and his supporters.

deciding if an abortion should take place.

The rest of the proceedings were taken up with decisions on amendments debated on an earlier occasion seeking to delete sections of the Bill in the interests of the 24-week compromise. But it was too late and the sitting ended with several divisions still to come and two more groups of amendments to be debated.

From the Labour benches Mr. Peter Archer, an opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that if ever sponsors deserved to lose their Bill it was the sponsors of this one after the way they had behaved.

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Parliamentary report, page 11

IP will ask about Corby hotel delay

Our Correspondent

William Homewood, our MP for Kettering, is to make an inquiry into why it took so long to trace the source of the disease organism in Strathclyde Hotel, Corby. The hotel was open for less than a week after a germ was found in the water system. Ten days ago a middle-aged man taken ill with the disease was staying there.

Mr. Homewood said that he shall be raising the matter in the House of Commons, asking why it took so long to trace the source and why local health authorities were not told of the risk in the first place.

Mr. Homewood said that the water was tested by engineers and found to be safe last night (the Press reports). Mr. Ian Gifford, the local manager, said yesterday: "We can only hope that the water will not be affected by this problem."

Spence Galbraith, of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre at Islington, north London, said that the incubation period for the disease was between three and 10 days, but anyone who stayed at the hotel in the 21 days could be suffering from the symptoms.

Slight fall in serious crime total

Home Office statistics issued yesterday for serious crime in England and Wales showed that the total of 2,537,000 was slightly lower than that of 1978 and 4 per cent lower than in 1977.

The Home Office statistical department said that the decrease in the last two years followed a very sharp rise of 15 per cent in 1977 and the average annual rate of increase over the 10 years 1969-1979 was nearly 5 per cent.

The slight decrease between the 1978 total of 2,561,500 and 1979 was in the first quarter. When seasonal factors were excluded the number of serious offences recorded in each of the last three quarters of 1979 was similar to the number in each quarter of 1978.

While other offences dropped there was a 9 per cent increase in violence against the person, to 95,000 cases. Sexual offences were down from 22,400 to 21,300. Burglary offences dropped from 265,700 to 249,100.

Fraud and forgery cases fell from 122,200 to 119,000 last year; but criminal damage was up from 306,200 cases in 1978 to 320,500 last year.

The number of serious offences cleared up last year totalled 981,000, 41 per cent of the total cases known to police, showing little change from the preceding two years.

Fitch in Coniston plan for water speed record

John Chatterton

A planning committee of the Coniston Water Authority yesterday deferred a decision on whether to permit an attempt on the world water speed record on Coniston Water this year.

Mr. Chatterton said that the committee had declined to consider an application to use the lake by Mr. Lesley Brown, a Manchester-based contractor, in the absence of a letter from him setting out precise details of what might be involved.

Mr. Chatterton said that the committee should reach a decision in time for next year's meeting. He hoped to break the present world record held by Mr. Kenneth Brown, an Australian, in late 1979 or early June this year.

Mr. Chatterton said that the committee had been studying the film of Mr. Donald Campbell's fatal run on Coniston when Bluebird became momentarily airborne.

face, Coniston has an emotional appeal for Mr. Lesley Brown and his team because of Mr. Donald Campbell's death there 13 years ago while attempting to set a new record in his boat Bluebird. Mr. Campbell, chief engineer of the new project, worked in the last Bluebird team under the late Mr. Lesley Brown, who was a mechanic to Mr. Donald Campbell and, before that, to his father, Sir Malcolm Campbell.

Mr. Brown said yesterday that Mr. Lesley's boat, so far unnamed, was being built at a factory in the Midlands. It would be powered by a Rolls-Royce Viper jet aircraft engine and four of these power units had been acquired.

Mr. Brown and his team, several of whom were involved in design work on the Concorde, have been studying the film of Mr. Donald Campbell's fatal run on Coniston when Bluebird became momentarily airborne.

Helicopter saves engineer hurt tanker blast

naval helicopter from Lee

naval helicopter from Lee Solent, Hampshire flew to aid a small tanker 30 miles south of the Isle of Wight yesterday morning after explosion and fire in the na room injured the chief engineer and immobilized the vessel.

The officer was taken to a naval hospital. The 150-ton tanker Runo, 900 tons, was carrying a crew of 11 and carrying a cargo of lubricating oil, was in tow by a Dutch tug.

A day call was made about 11.30. We are still unaware of extent of the damage in engine room.

We have had no reports of casualties other than the engineer. We have no information about the cause of the explosion and

RSPCA plea for stricter laws to save badgers

From Our Correspondent

The RSPCA appealed last night for a tightening of the laws to save badgers.

It followed the acquittal of Mr. Maurice Bell, aged 43, of Hawes, Master of Wensleydale Hounds, who was accused of killing a badger on a day last year when his hounds were hunting in the Yorkshire dales.

So far there has not been a successful prosecution under the 1973 Badger Act, said a spokesman at RSPCA headquarters in Horsaam, Sussex.

The prosecution said that Mr. Bell was stopped by police with the badger in his vehicle. He denied the charge but said he had taken the badger from three men and was returning it to its sett when the police stopped him.

Medieval fair at festival

Our Correspondent

A medieval fair, featuring jousting and court jesters, at theatre and animals is part of the Edinburgh Festival.

It will be one of the fringe events on August 26, and part of the 12th anniversary appeal for the Edinburgh Festival. It is proposed that the fair will be held in the Parliament Square.

The fringe this year looks being bigger and better

than last year's record of 328 performing groups.

The fringe organizers said that 60 companies are expected from abroad. Nearly 225 companies have confirmed appearances at this year's fringe, compared with under 200 at the same time last year.

Andrew Cruickshank, the actor and fringe chairman, stressed the importance of the fringe for the theatre. He said that commercial theatre was in jeopardy and the established theatre vulnerable.

Fourth heart transplant performed at Harefield

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent
Mr. James Burkhill, aged 49, a former steel worker, was a new heart at Harefield Hospital near Uxbridge yesterday. It was the fourth transplant operation carried out by Mr. Magdi Yacoub and his team.

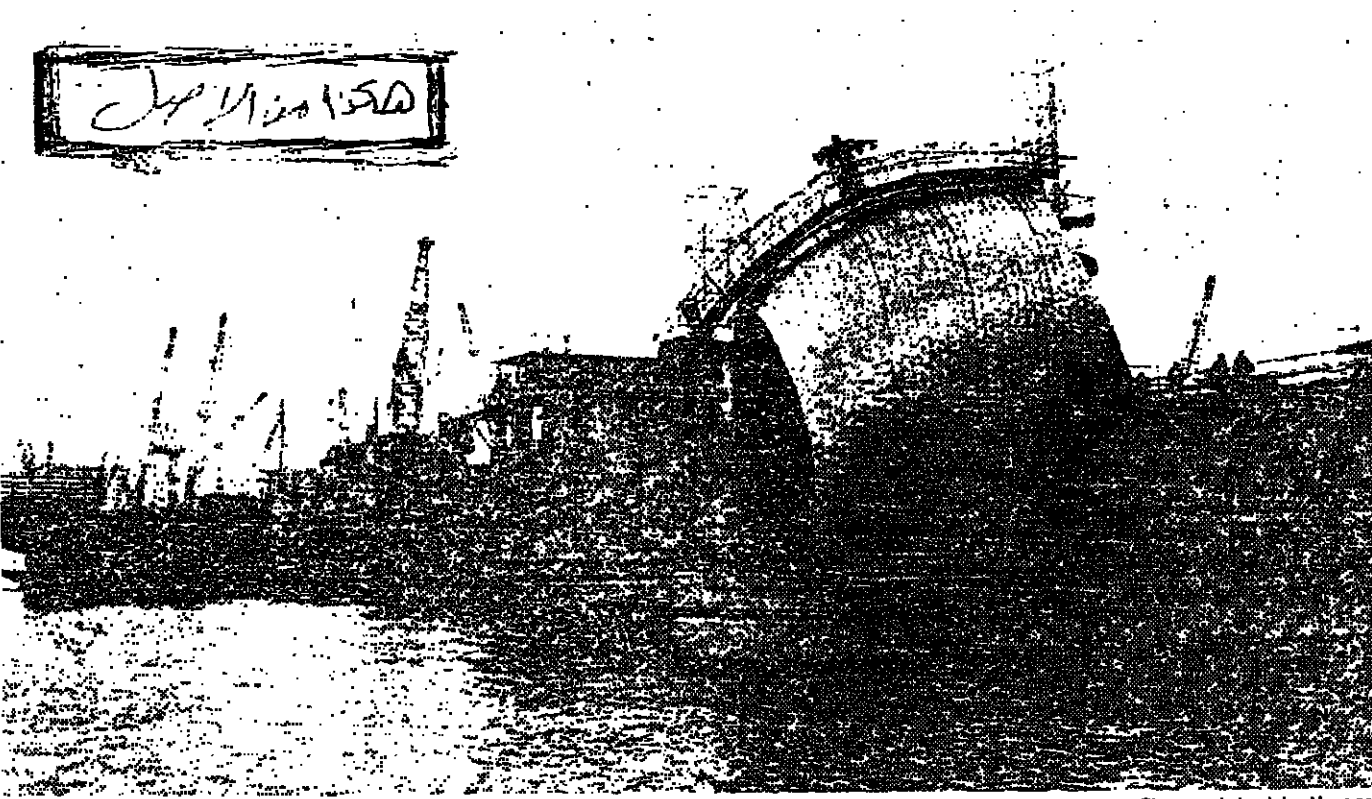
A few hours after the operation ended early yesterday, Mr. Burkhill, a widower with three children, from Mold, North Wales, was conscious and drinking tea. His new heart came from a man aged 31 who died of natural causes.

Mr. Yacoub's team will continue its programme at Harefield with at least four more transplants this year in spite of the announcement on Thursday that £100,000 of government money will go to Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, where Mr. Terence English's team has just received a £300,000 donation from a charitable trust.

After advice from the transplantation advisory panel, ministers believe that scarce central fund money should be given to Papworth, which meets most of the criteria for heart transplant operations.

Part of the cost of heart transplants at Harefield is carried by the National Health Service. The extra cost is estimated to be between £6,000 and £7,000 for each transplant.

The latest patient, Mr. Burkhill, suffered five severe heart attacks and was forced to give up work in 1975.



Photograph by John Manning

Woman took baby from hospital cot

Yvonne Jamieson, aged 21,

who was said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to have wanted a baby so badly that she snatched a newly-born girl from her cot by her mother's bedside, was placed on probation for three years by Judge Abdela, QC, on condition that she undergoes medical treatment.

Miss Jamieson admitted stealing the child from her mother, Mrs. Mervyn Cooper, on November 2 last year. After a national appeal the baby was found at Miss Jamieson's home in Cassland Road, Homerton,

London, 36 hours later and returned to her mother.

Mr. Simon Goldstein, for the prosecution, said Miss Jamieson wanted a child of her own but was told by doctors she was physically incapable of having any. Several times she imagined herself to be pregnant. Tests were later found to be misleading.

Miss Jamieson began a phantom pregnancy at the beginning of last year. She told all her friends and relatives she was pregnant. She told her boy friend she was pregnant and he

assumed responsibility, counsel added.

He added: "By artifice or subterfuge, Jamieson started to get larger. It did appear she was pregnant." At hospital, however, she was told she was not pregnant.

When Mrs. Cooper gave birth, she was put in the same ward where Miss Jamieson had visited a friend. When Mrs. Cooper woke early on November 2 to feed her baby she was gone.

Miss Jamieson returned to her home with the child and she told conflicting stories.

A 15.5m high timber shell roof, part of London's flood barrier project, which was examined yesterday by a group of Italians trying to save Venice from flooding.

The timber shell roof was positioned recently on pier 9 of the barrier at Woolwich Reach.

The Greater London Council's flood defence scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1982.

Road crash damages of £300,000 for US woman

Mrs Judith Struss, of Seattle, United States, who was paralyzed from the chest down in a road accident, was awarded £300,000 damages in a settlement in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday. It was the highest award made for personal injuries in Scotland.

Mrs Struss, who is in her early thirties, was a passenger in a car involved in a collision with another car on the Greenock-Glasgow road on January 17, 1978.

She sued Bearing Services, Ltd, of Helen Street Industrial Estate, Glasgow, for £400,000 as the owners of the other car and as employers of the driver, Mr. James Downie, who is now dead.

Mrs Struss, who is a patient at the Rusk Institute at New York University, received a record interim award of £25,000 damages in December, 1978.

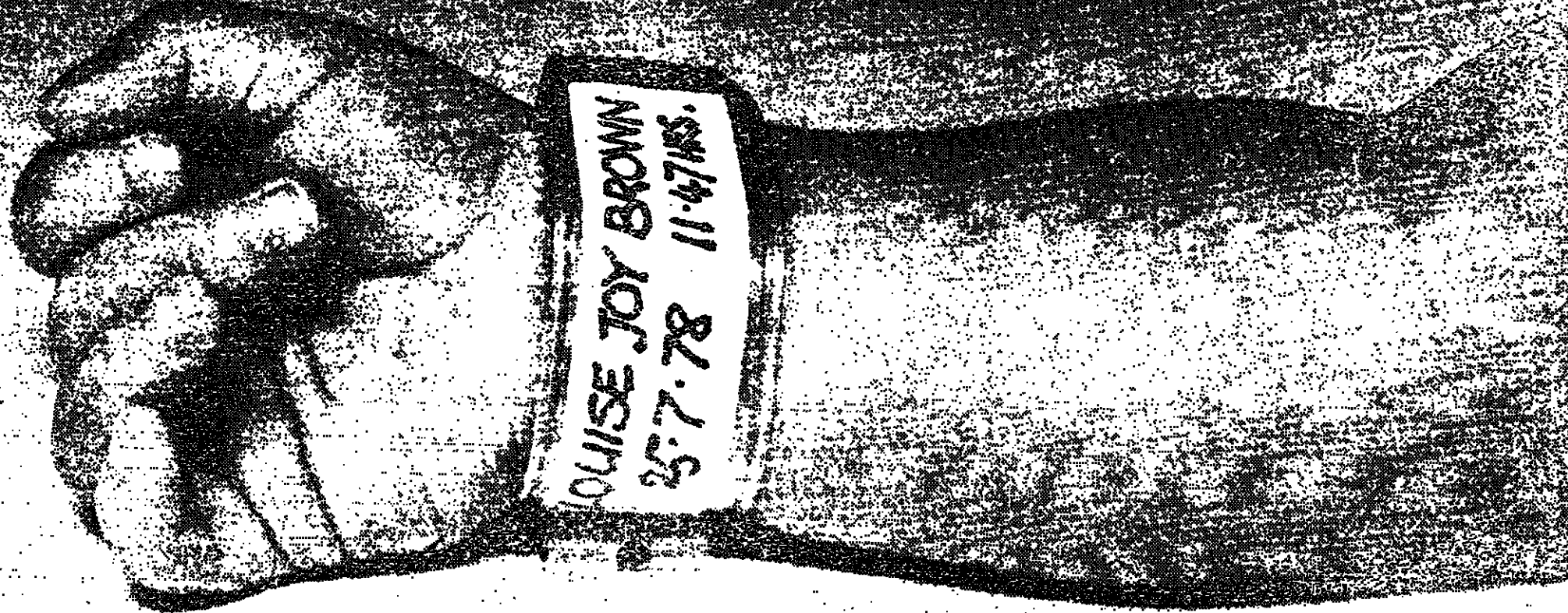
Lord Murray was told yesterday that agreement had been reached on the amount.

Appeal by men in corruption case

Three Dundee men who were each jailed for five years on Thursday for corruption were freed yesterday when appeals against their convictions and sentences were lodged.

Lord Cameron in chambers in the High Court in Edinburgh granted their application for interim liberation pending the hearing of their appeals this summer. They were ordered to find security of £250 each.

At 11.47 pm,
on July 25th 1978,
to every
childless couple,
hope was born.



At Oldham General Hospital, Lesley Brown gave birth to Louise Joy, the world's first test-tube baby.

With this birth one of the major causes of infertility was removed. And hope born for thousands of women who thought they could never have a child.

Now, exclusively in The Observer, the doctors who made the birth possible tell you their own moving story of this medical breakthrough.

For the next 3 weeks, you can read of the 10 years of heart-breaking trial and error that led up to that joyous moment.

A Matter of Life. Told by scientist Robert Edwards and gynaecologist Patrick Steptoe.

It's a story that will move you, fascinate you, and make you, as it did its authors, thoughtful of its implications for us all.

THE OBSERVER

A Matter of Life. Starting on Sunday. Only in The Observer.

HOME NEWS

Plea by controversial judge to raise age of jurors to 25

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

The minimum age for jury service should be raised to 25, Judge Alan King-Hamilton, the controversial judge, said last night.

Mr Barry Pain, the Chief Constable of Kent, called on the same television programme for the vetting of juries to take place in every trial.

They made their remarks on London Weekend Television's *London Programme* which dealt with jury vetting.

Judge King-Hamilton said that a young person was insufficiently mature to take on responsibility as a juror, and was "inclined perhaps to think of the defendant, and, if he's married, his family, rather than the victim and the public."

"It has been obvious for years that people of that age, particularly students, are inclined to be rebellious and mutinous... if they are on a jury one way of demonstrating it is by returning a verdict against the establishment, not a verdict of not guilty, no matter how strong the evidence the other way."

By the age of 25, he went on, people were mature, most were married and had responsibilities

and understood the responsibilities of serving on a jury.

Mr Pain agreed that 18 was too young. "I believe that one has to have a certain maturity, a knowledge of the world, be stable, in order to be able to judge objectively and impartially the facts put before them."

He spoke in support of the proposal by the Association of Chief Police Officers that "checks" be made on all jurors. It was farcical, he said, before a jury "there is no means of ensuring that he is going to get an objective and impartial trial."

"It is in the defendant's interest that there should be a jury consisting of people who have not got strong views one way or the other; that have not been convicted of criminal offences themselves; that have not behaved unreasonably; that have not been the victims of crime themselves."

With crime on the increase "we have got to do something to stop criminals having their own way. One of the areas where they can be stopped is by having objective, impartial juries."

If that was not possible there would have to be a move to have professional adjudicators.

Niedermayer body is identified by police

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The greatest mystery in 11 years of strife in Northern Ireland was partly solved yesterday when the police formally announced that they had found the body of Mr Thomas Niedermayer, the German industrialist and diplomat kidnapped six years ago.

Since Tuesday pathologists have been studying the badly decomposed remains of a body found in a shallow grave at an unofficial rubbish tip at Dummur, near Belfast.

The site is about one and a half miles from where Mr Niedermayer was kidnapped by two young men just after 11 p.m. on December 27, 1973. He was dragged away from his home still wearing his carpet slippers.

The pathologists identified the body largely by dental comparisons, but last night still had not discovered the cause of death. There is a strong possibility, however, that the funeral can be held next week.

Mrs Ingeborg Niedermayer, who received £100,000 compensation from the Northern Ireland Office, has moved from the family home in West Belfast, but still lives in the province.

The pathologists have an onerous task in assessing how Mr Niedermayer died. Last year Mr Peter McKelvey, a former IRA man, said in America that Mr Niedermayer died after a heart attack at a house in Tull Lodge, West Belfast, not long after he was seized.

Mr Niedermayer, aged 45 when he was kidnapped, was managing director of the Grundig factory which he helped to set up in the early 1960s in Northern Ireland, and honorary member of the German Government in Northern Ireland.

No motive for the kidnapping has been established and no organization has claimed responsibility. A popular theory is that the Provisional IRA took him in revenge for the removal of IRA prisoners in England to Ulster jails.

The event resulted in one of the biggest manhunt operations in the province and the German Government sent an investigation team in January, 1974. Within ten days of the kidnapping the London office of Grundig received a ransom demand for £250,000.

The ransom was paid, but the kidnappers did not release him. He was held for 12 months, during which time he was tortured and his health deteriorated.

He was appearing for sentence after pleading guilty to the East End of London, was under threat from other criminals because of what he told the police. He had also been ostracized by his own family.

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WEST EUROPE



French soldiers help clear oil from Tregastel beach, in Brittany.

Mr Haughey backs French stand on Britain's EEC payments

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 14

The French Government has been given full support from the Irish Government for its stand on Britain's demands for a reduction of its contribution to the Community budget and a revision of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, who left Paris this morning, after a two-day working visit, insisted in talks with President Giscard d'Estaing, Mr Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister and Mr Jean François-Poncet, the French Ambassador in Dublin, that his Government wished for a solution to Britain's difficulties, but not at the cost of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Haughey, who described the links between his country and France as "very special", said at lunch on Tuesday at the Elysée Palace that France was Ireland's "most constant ally" in Europe.

The atmosphere at his talks with both the President and the Prime Minister was very cordial. He was also able to announce after his visit to Mr Barre that Ireland had decided to accept the tender of the French firm of Cit-Elcatel for the renovation of its entire telephone system.

The agreement was described by the French press today as the "miracle of the century". Mr Haughey told the press that he agreed with M Giscard d'Estaing that Britain's budget problem could be settled only if the solution took into consideration "some of the other troubled areas of EEC policy—oil, fish, transport and agriculture".

Mr Haughey also took up the problem of Northern Ireland with his French hosts, and insisted that a political solution must be found now, rather than in the future. His object was to give the Irish standpoint, not to enlist French support in

bringing pressure on Britain to negotiate with Dublin.

"I hope for a new arrangement, free and open, by which all the Irish people might take part in the affairs of the whole of Ireland, without any British presence, but with the active cooperation of Britain and in the context of the European Community," he told reporters.

The French Government had shown sympathy and understanding, but had given no undertakings on this subject. "This does not mean it will not use its good will to find a solution," he added.

The contract won by France for the modernization of the Irish telephone system in the teeth of American, Canadian, Swedish and Japanese competition, amounts to more than £550m over six years.

A first order has been placed with Cit-Elcatel, a subsidiary of Thomson-CSF, totalling 360m francs, for delivery of telephone exchanges equipped with the temporal electronic communication system "E 10", already adopted in 18 countries.

The French firm will also set up a plant in the Irish Republic on a 50-50 basis with the Irish national telecommunications company Telecom to produce these exchanges for domestic use and for export.

It is the first time, a spokesman for Cit-Elcatel declared, that a member country of the Community turned to another, after calling for tenders, to install its telephone system. Bitherto they dealt either with American firms like ITT or Swedish ones.

It is possible that a second type of telephone exchange will be ordered by the Irish. In that case Ericsson, which already has a plant in the Irish Republic, would be best placed.

Nuclear plant inquiry makes an undignified exit

From Ian Murray
Ploegf, Brittany, March 14

The public part of the planning inquiry into the building of a 5,200-megawatt nuclear power station here ended at 5 pm today in a sad fiasco.

French police, riot police and riot police left the site where the inquiry was held under a hail of stones flung by a crowd of farmers, countrywomen, peasants and militant trouble-makers. Behind them the troops left a choking cloud of tear gas.

Mr Jean-Marie Kerloch, the mayor of Ploegf, said it had taken 600 troops to protect the inquiry during six weeks.

French planning law has now been complied with in that inquiry had been open from 9 am to 5 pm each working day for weeks to receive comments from the public. The only attention it has received has been the daily demonstration which necessitated its armed guard.

Preparations for this last day began in the middle of the week when groups of local people set out to block all the approach roads. On the main road from the east, where it skirts the Atlantic, a chain was formed to hoist a banner which read "No nuclear power in Brittany".

In a statement yesterday the company pointed out that the Independent Broadcasting Authority contracts requirements for the new franchise from 1982 was for seven hours of Welsh language programmes a week. But the Government's policy in its plans for the ITV-run fourth channel was for 12 hours of Welsh language programmes a week.

Site work on the new studios, the company said, would not begin until "we have satisfactorily resolved with the IBA the gap between the two".

The complex would be at Culverhouse Cross, about four miles from the present RTV studios. RTV has spent £1,250,000 on buying the 60-acre site and on architects and planning. But the Government's total cost but it is understood to be about £5m.

The company's half-year pre-tax profits were announced on Thursday and were halved, partly due to last year's strike which blacked out screens.

RTV said it hoped to announce next week a deal with Clwyd County Council for the use of a studio complex at the Theatre Clwyd, in Mold. This would offer much needed North Wales facilities.

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OVERSEAS

Moscow hint of new political initiative to defuse Afghan crisis

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, March 14

The Russians today announced that they had reached a new agreement with Afghanistan on the presence of Soviet troops in the country, and hinted that they were about to announce an important new political initiative to defuse the Afghan crisis.

Mr Shah Muhammad Dost, the Afghan Foreign Minister, who arrived here for talks yesterday at the request of the Soviet leaders, left again today after only a brief day's discussion.

But the short announcement of his departure by Tass said that during talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, "practical questions have been discussed and agreed pertaining to the conditions for the temporary stay in the territory of Afghanistan of a limited contingent of Soviet troops".

This is the first time the Russians have publicly suggested that their large military presence in Afghanistan is to be put on a regular basis. Up till now it has been justified simply by reference to the military clauses of the Soviet-Afghan friendship and co-operation treaty.

At a luncheon today for Mr Dost, Mr Gromyko was quoted as having said that the search for political ways of settling the Afghan question "can only be welcomed".

But at the same time he categorically ruled out the EEC proposal for neutralization of the country. "No attempts to solve the affairs of the Afghan people behind its back, no plans affecting the sovereignty of the Afghan state or ignoring its lawful Government and not Soviet intervention."

A few days after the intervention in Afghanistan Soviet press carried a sin ambiguous obituary of a Deputy Interior Minister was in Afghanistan a earlier. It was later stated that he was killed in the Soviet intervention committed suicide when he recalled home for having managed the timing of Soviet intervention.

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Bar to cheap air fares 'deplorable'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The rejection by the French Government of a British Airways plan for a £20 single air fare between London and Paris was described by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday as "a deplorable event".

In a statement issued in London he said: "The essence of the European Community lies in the free exchange of goods and people. Nothing could be more important than enabling European citizens to travel between European cities at a price they can afford."

British Airways had planned to introduce the £20 "Channel-hopper" fare on the London-Paris route from April 1 for travellers prepared to delay bookings until the day before, or the day of travel, but the French Government let the airline and the British Government know earlier this week that it would not be acceptable as Air France did not intend to operate it.

Channelhopper was to be part of British Airways' drive to bring down the cost of air travel in Europe, traditionally one of the highest fare areas in the world. The airline's policy has the backing of the Government, although the Civil Aviation Authority on Thursday rejected a long list of new routes and cheap fares which had been applied for by Laker Airways and other independent airlines.

Mr Nott's statement said that the level of European fares was too high. British Airways and British Caledonian wanted to bring them down, but they were being blocked by the French Government "on behalf of Air France".

"As Secretary of State responsible for the commercial and aviation interests of the country, I find it increasingly unreasonable that in all those areas where the British economy is highly competitive—banking, insurance, services, aviation and agriculture—we are frequently frustrated by the protectionism of our partners."

"Yet in the areas where we have temporary problems, such as the motor industry, we maintain open markets for their manufactured goods."

Orchestra's disbandment barbaric, conductor says

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra performed the overture to Wagner's *Meistersinger* last night as the prelude to a public debate in Glasgow on the proposed disbandment of the orchestra.

The conductor, Karl Anton Rickenbacher, described the proposal as an act of barbarism. "I would hope that the people of Scotland realize that this is not just a BBC matter, but a matter for Scotland."

Herr Rickenbacher said that he was in Germany and knew nothing of the proposal until two days after it was announced. He was horrified. In addition to studio work the orchestra gave 40 public concerts a year.

"We have received letters from all over the world and it is evident that the eyes of the world are on this issue," he said.

Dr David Lumsden, principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and chairman of the Save the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra action committee, last night released the text of a letter he had sent on behalf of the committee to the Broadcasting Council for Scotland.

In it he said that the proposal to disband the orchestra had not been discussed with the Arts Council, orchestral management, heads of higher educational institutions, county music advisers, the Musicians' Union, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, regional or district authorities.

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Informer on 73 people gets 5 years

A man who gave information about 73 people and made statements to the police totalling more than 500 pages, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for five years.

Judge McKinnon, QC, told Anthony Spagno, aged 27, that although his help to the police was taken into account, anything less than a substantial sentence would be an affront to society.

The court was told that Mr Spagno, a market stall holder in the East End of London, was under threat from other criminals because of what he told the police. He had also been ostracized by his own family.

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Orangemen plan Belfast show of strength today

From Our Own Correspondent
Belfast

The Orange Order will mount a massive demonstration today that will bring the centre of Belfast to a halt for about four hours in a show of strength aimed deliberately at embarrassing the Government.

The organizers are hoping to attract 50,000 protesters who want tougher security measures against continued assassinations and bombings by the Provisional IRA.

But the march has another purpose. It has been timed to coincide with the approximate expected end of the Ulster constitutional conference as a reminder to the Government not to push the loyalist community too far in proposals that will emerge ultimately for constitutional reform.

The rally has the added point of being held on St Patrick's weekend. All the pomp and pageantry of the Orangemen will be on display in an attempt to produce a bigger response than the traditional July 12 rally. The Order has struck 50,000 memorial badges which are reported to have

Saturday Review

The Last Days

by Sean Day-Lewis

Cecil Day-Lewis, lionized young poet of the 1930s and 1940s, was appointed Poet Laureate in succession to John Masefield at the beginning of 1968. His health was already frail and in early 1971 it was discovered he had terminal cancer of the pancreas. His second wife, the actress Jill Balcon, was told he had "a possible year" to live and advised that he should continue to live in hope. He was not told what was wrong with him. Three months later he was still on his feet endeavouring to lead his normal life.

On July 18 Cecil and Jill gave what was destined to be the last of the hundreds of personal recitals which they had offered together over twenty-one years. It was organized by Douglas' Cleverdon at the Shakespeare Institute as part of his eighteenth Stratford-on-Avon Poetry Festival, and included a wide selection from Cecil's more recent work: "The Disabused", requiring much power from the reader; "Elegy for a Woman Unknown"; "A Picture by Renoir" four of the Irish poems from "The Expulsion"; and "The Expulsion" itself, still unpublished. At the end Cecil looked so ill that Colette Clark, daughter of Sir Kenneth, suggested to Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham, that he should be given a doctor. Cecil was, consequently conveyed to his train in a funeral car, a choice about which he joked bravely.

about which the joke-braved Cecil embarked on his final visit to his native land on Saturday, August 7. They took the Mercedes and crossed the Irish Sea by way of Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire. The Old Head Hotel was once more safely reached. Cecil's car and driver placed as he always had done, though his walks were much restricted and his swimming and diving days were over. His worst moment was when he was sitting in the front of his stationary and safely parked car, and it was run into by an omnibus. Cecil was unhurt. The beautiful but accident-prone Mercedes had to be taken into Castlebar for a new windscreen and other repairs. . . .

From Old Head, Cecil wrote to Billie Curral. (Their love affair during his Devon period, 1900-1902, is the subject of poems, and his last detective novel, Nicholas Blake's *The Private Wound*).

I hope my lunch invitation has not gone array, and that I didn't annoy you by my crazy suggestion that you might care to stay in Greenwich Village. I am in London—I don't know how long I have to live and it would be nice to see you before I am trundled off to the home of the dead. We could dine at restaurant near Chatto and Windus, where nobody will notice a "fat old woman" or a man who resembles a human skeleton.

The journey back to England began on August 30, Jill driving through Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, a farewell to the "land of milk and honey" of the British childhood summers. Before catching the boat at Roslare.

In London, Cecil continued to go to his office every other week, showing the determination of a man who still hoped that if he behaved as though nothing was wrong his illness might tire of the struggle against him and go away. Writing to Charles Causley about the 1971 meeting of the Queen's Guild Medal committee, he did not even mention his health.

On October 26 he dined with The Club and next evening Jill drove him in her new Renault to give a recital at Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire, the scene of Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard". It was a bad night. The side effects of his medicines and diseases were making it more difficult for him to control either his temper or his bowels, though he still continued to keep such problems from everybody but Jill.

On the thirty-first Stephen and Natasha Spender brought W. H. Auden to lunch at 6 Crooms Hill. Cecil noted that Wystan now had a very limited stock of jokes and conversational gambits, which he repeated over and over again, though the pedagogic finger was jabbed as vigorously as

ever. Wylan guessed at a first glance that Cecil had cancer and that this would probably be the last time he would ever see his old friend and colleague.

On November 4 the Queen's Gold Medal committee met as planned at L'Epicure and afterwards in the Chatto boardroom. Cecil had some difficulty in gaining the prize for Stephen Spender, but after a rearranged action by Philip Larkin it was eventually decided to go ahead with the Spender recommendation, on the strength of his latest book *The Generous Days* "and, to a considerable extent, in recognition of his past work".

The news that Cecil had cancer now spread, and some generous gestures resulted. The poet Paul Delmon, who himself died of cancer five years later, but who was then being well-rewarded as a cinema screenplay writer, sent a cheque for £200 as an act of humaneness. The *London Evening Standard* was running the Westminster Press. Elizabeth Jane Howard organized a fund to which Cecil's friends contributed £1,200 to give him extra comforts during his last months. Kenneth Clark brought a first edition of Coleridge, pretending that he had written it, and gave it to Cecil. The book was in his library at Salwood Castle before moving into the lodge.

His children by his second marriage also did him well that December. Tamamis was offered a place at King's College, Cambridge, one of the first group of girl undergraduates to invade that institution. And the children of his first marriage, who had inherited the acting talent of his parents, was an excellent Florizel in the Bedales production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. Cecil, who had taken the same part in the first Bedales production 48 years before when he fell in love with his Perdita, watched with approval. On the night of the performance he was black and blue with bruises that he had taken when he lost his footing and fallen down some stairs.

It was surprising that he did not have more high falls. He had become a six foot tall bundle of skin and bone, and it was will-power that kept him going about his business as 1971 turned to 1972. I remember giving him lunch, for a change, at a restaurant called the Lane, near his office just before Christmas. It was an expensive establishment but, as always at that season, uncomfortably full. Cecil's chair, wherever he moved it, had a wretched habit of being repeatedly bumped. He remained patient and uncomplaining, relishing his mineral water as though it was best claret. He knew that he was the best news that his second son Nicholas had found the courage to break free from the unsatisfactory marriage that he had begun with such ceremony at the new cathedral of St. John's Field church 14 years before. Cecil and I parted in the street outside. I looked back and saw him striding across the road with a new confidence and a grimaced hat. It was not the gait of an old man, much less a sick one: it seemed impossible that he would soon be snatched away, and all his life and achievement and wit, his machine and presence with him.

On January 14, 1972, he was writing to Mollie Patterson, the secretary of the Royal Society of Literature, about the candidates then being proposed for the honour of Companion of Literature. I've tried to ring you twice but you're evidently enjoying a well-earned holiday. I hope to attend on January 24, and will propose, Angus (Wilson)—as a quid pro quo for supporting Leslie. (Hart-

ley), whom I don't really think up to it. David Cecil certainly. My health being so up and down, if I'm baulked at the last moment I'll ring you, so can you take this scrawl as assenting to all those parties.

In the event Cecil did get to the RSL Council meeting on the twenty-fourth, proposing Angus Wilson for a Companionship of Literature after Lord Birkenhead put up Lord David Cecil and Robert Speaight spoke for L. P. Hartley. Cecil was clearly very ill and had to be placed at a corner of the table next to the electric fire so that he could keep warm. That he attended at all was proof of his extreme devotion to the Society of which he had been a Fellow for nearly 30 years.

Cecil had recorded a 25-minute broadcast of his own poetry transmitted by Radio 3 on New Year's Day. This heralded a three-month period during which he did as much broadcasting as at any time of his life.

his life. This was his biggest undertaking. King was a series of six poetry programmes for BBC Television, transmitted after his death as *The Lusting Job*. This was an astonishing feat, as Swallow, a Londoner, friend of Swallow, and neighbour, then head of arts features. The majority channel had never been used for the uncompromising dissemination of poetry. King had had many animated, but often inconclusive discussions as to how one could present poetry on television, and even the idea of doing so. King wrote in her foreword to the Allen and Unwin anthology made from the series. Cecil, nevertheless, drawn to the idea of "using the latest means of communication to put over the oldest of the arts" and eventually Swallow, showing that he was not, but not knowing he was dying of cancer, had taken the "enormous risk" of commis-

But it was obvious that Cecil De Mille's studio was big enough to be transported to the BBC Television Centre in West London. Swallow decided that the filming must somehow be managed by the Gromes, and this was explained. Cecil said there had been an aesthetic decision that his home atmosphere would provide a necessary intimacy, not possible in the studio. The filming of the sitting-room, so lovingly described in Nicholas Blake's *The Worm of Death* (1961), was chosen for the shooting. A second difficulty that could not be easily ignored, was that recording coincided with the miners' strike, a fuel, emergency and power cuts. The BBC had to provide a gener-

ator. Recording began on January 16 with Swallow himself as director. Cecil managed his introductions, and his response but was so exhausted when the first programme was completed that morning that he had to go and lie down. The same afternoon he got up and recorded the final programme of the sequence; this time with Sir John Gielgud joining him and Jill as readers, finding some reserve of strength that was not really there. He clearly spoke from the heart in introducing Gielgud's reading of "The Merchant of Venice" to the Theatre's "Don't go gentle into that good night."

The other four programmes were recorded at irregular intervals during the next month, Cecil and Jill doing all the reading, except on February 30 when the actor Marius Goring joined them in "Satire and Hatred". Cecil more and more frequently collapsed with exhaustion between filming sessions but his determination, and the technical skill and patience of the film crew ensured that the series was satisfactorily completed.

On January 25, he and Jill gave a dinner party at 6 Crooms Hill, for Paul Dehn and his friend the composer James Bernard, and for Lennox and Freda Berkeley. Cecil was given much pleasure by the music made that night, as he was two nights later at the Royal Opera House, where Arthur Bliss had arranged that he should have the Royal Box, and the use of a lift to get there. Appropriately the second half of the London Symphony Orchestra programme consisted of Faure's *Requiem*, the recording of which was a memorable service later in the year.

February 28 he should by all the rulers, nature had become permanently bedridden. He was so thin that nothing could keep him warm and his feet had become so cold that he was talking out of misery. Yet on the day he returned to his Cecil's office and went on afterwards to the House of Lords for a dinner of the Byron Society, Presided over by the Earl of Byron, he marked the 160th anniversary of Byron's maiden speech to the House: Cecil read extracts from the speech.

The physical effort was too much and by the time he had finished his border was in complete collapse and had to rest in bed for a day or two. On March 7 he was one of 23

members of the British and Foreign Establishment, who signed a letter in *The Times* calling for a period of detention without trial in Northern Ireland; but there were to be no more attempts at public appearances.

His second son by his first marriage, Nicholas, came from South America to visit him in March, something of a stranger from another world. "On my last visit to England I think we had completely lost touch", Nick recalled. "He listened to me and I listened to him, but we got through to him at all. And when I finally left, I said goodbye to him in his chair. He had visitors (Ian and Trekkie Parsons) and was already talking to them and giving them a glance in my direction before he reached the door of his study."

I had come to collect Nick and drive him to London Airport. I witnessed this scene and hoped very much he had not noticed Cecil's apparent indifference. It was doubtless part of Cecil's scheme for conserving his energy and avoiding distressing scenes, for not wasting what little time he had on futile regrets. His special friends, among whom Ian and Trekkie Parsons were numbered, had now become all-important to him. He would light up with their presence and, more or less, collapse exhausted on their departure.

exhausted of his own strength, the man who was Elizabeth Jane Howard, now Mrs Kingsley Amis, she could feel the almost unbearable awareness that the world was a place which then permeated what had become a rather dark house. The strain on Jill would have been huge even if she had been a less obviously well-trained nurse without emotional involvement. As it was, she had to watch the person who had been the center of the world decline day by day; she had to maintain the pretence of a better future, and she had to deal with the increasing awareness of dealing with a patient who could do less and less for himself. Jill had not slept a whole night through for the first time in a long time. Both became exasperated, as much as anything with their own lack of physical strength. When the crisis Daniel went through, the two of them were in the extreme, and could remember leaving the house at

this time with the feeling of having been caught in a vice, so powerfully did the troubled atmosphere press down on the visitor. Thanks to good fortune and her own generosity Jane was able to help.

Bill had loaded a part in an Associated Television drama series, *The Strauss Family*, which meant a week of recording at Elstree studio in Hertfordshire. Jane and Kingsley Amis were living in a large eighteenth-century house at nearby Hadley Common and could provide both a ground-floor room, and the nurse presently looking after Jane's invalid mother. Cecil, who dreaded the idea of going into hospital while Jill was filming, happily agreed to the idea of a week's "holiday" in the Amis establishment.

Other friends continued to call. There was a visit from William Plomer, who called on April 4 and three days later wrote to Rupert Hart-Davis: "I saw poor Cecil on Tuesday, quite enfeebled, quite clear in the head, modestly courageous."

On Thursday, April 6 a sunny day, Cecil was helped out of his Crooms Hill home and was driven by Jill, with Tamasin and Daniel, to Lemmons, the Amis home above High Barnet on the northern outskirts of London. All his life the "rootless man" in

Cecil had loved changes of scene, had felt renewed by a change of house as by a change of love. Now the magic was gone.

Cecil at once "professed" himself delighted with the whole set up," as Jane had written. His room had a bath-room, a dressing room, a yard attached, at the east end of the elegant house. Kinsley Amis and Cecil were not politically correct, but they were more in common than they suspected, and became increasingly attached to one another.

Amis asked Cecil to ask for Cecil's recorded music order. He would choose some "good" Mandel or some "sophisticated" music. He is in touch with the posterous self-denying Amis dictum that the main achievement of J. S. Bach was in fathering C. P. E. Bach, and that the main achievement of the posterous Amis was in the simplest thing: a bunch of flowers, a toasted bun, a new drillier, ice cream,

the bird-table outside his window, sweet-smelling soap. One day he was able to sit in the courtyard and look at the tree as they began to leaf and flower, and once he went for a ride round the extensive garden in the electric chair belonging to Jane's mother, responding with enthusiasm to both the vehicle and the place

After a week Jane asked Cecil if he would like to stay until he felt really better. "I would like to stay for months, and I am very anxious to give Jill a proper rest," he replied. Jill gratefully agreed that they should stay for as many weeks as there were, and, on Cecil's orders, went out to buy him a notebook so that he could thank the household with a poem. After two days he reported, "It is very difficult to work on a quarter of a cylinder." Ten days later his last poem, "At Lemmons" was completed.

Round me all is amenity, a
bloom of
Magnolia uttering its requiems,
A climate of acceptance. Very
well
I accept my weakness with my
friends
Good natures sweetening every
day my sick room.

At this time he was also signing copies of his new birthday hymn for Shakespeare; and writing the occasional postcard—one of them to the poet's children. He was also mending him on his work with *Let the Poet Choose* (Harrap, 1973), in which each of the 44 contributing poets was allowed to choose two of his own poems. May, 1973, saw two poems the last sonnet of *O Dreams, O Destinations*, (*Word Over All*, 1973); and *On Not Saying Everything* (1973). Cecil had written to him, "I think because, though I wrote it 30 years ago, it still stands up and says something I feel to be as truthful about the human condition as anything I have ever written because I believe so strongly in the doctrine of limitations it speaks for—these things, that is, a poem, a man, a relation, a society, a culture, a civilization, a man thrives by the limits around

A steady stream of victors made the journey to Hadley Common: Noah Sorrellwood, his Chato friend and colleague for so many years; writers such as Philip Larkin and V. S. Pritchett; Peggy Ashcroft, the great actress with whom he had performed in so many recitals; the lawyer Jeremy Hutchinson ("very funny without being too noisy") and the academic Noel Annan; and

others with less res-
names though equally
dear. He was
grieved and gave him
new lease of life, befo
departure and the r
exhaustion. He ap-
enjoyed his sixty-eight
day on the twenty-
opening each of the
puted on his bed with
mour gallantly feigr
simply true.

He must have drawn
sions from his physical
and increasingly severe
of pain but he did not
them. Maybe he felt
discuss the matter w
would be altogether u
ful for them both, an
could not discuss it wi
would be wrong to do
anybody else.

Jill telephoned me on May 18 saying that Cecil was suddenly much weaker, and that the nurse had said it was time to start to think about funeral arrangements. Two days later he received a visit from his agent and his partner A. D. Peter himself on the verge of death and with less than a day to live, arrived soaked in the middle of a thunderstorm. I went out to Lemmons on May 21. I kept a diary of the progressive last days.

Renault at High Barnet. She is outwardly in good health, but she seems really quite distressed by her

distressed by appearance. She says: not been able to shave for two days. On Thurs enjoyed her reading from *Mill on the Floss*, but day did not take in much Jane read from *Pride and Prejudice*. He is off now. He is more or less

now. He is, more or less
tose' when I enter the b
room. Ursula Vaughn
liams is here helping as
has a weekend off. I am
to help in turning him a
some reason bold my bri
if to detach myself from
skelateral legs and hips
cannot be part of Cecil.
the turning he laces his
together and places his
his chest as if he has
himself in a life, an off

[illegible]

Continued on opposite



Illustration by Lars Hohanson

PERSONAL CHOICE

any Steel in Tales of the Unexpected (ITV, 9.45)

any Steel in Tales of the Unexpected (ITV, 9.45) notice that Radio Times, in sharpening our appetite for its repeat showing of the film in which Selt conducts the go SO in Bruckner's Symphony No 7 (BBC 2, 8.00), is a Sunday Times review ("a mighty orchestra... superb making... a glistering tremolo") which is more like a school display. The Times man, with characteristic cold (and therefore no mention in Radio Times), wrote: "Genrg's 'playing on his orchestra with a refinement that expects more from a solo pianist or violinist.' After all anything I have to say about tonight's performance apart 'please watch it', would be in the nature of an 'lunax'.

a season of Warner Brothers gangster movies ends tonight White Heat (BBC 2, 11.30), which is as good as any of and better than most, James Cagney, who plays a vious thug, thought little of Raoul Walsh's film, dismissing his autobiography, as "another cheapjack job". But it agney's idea to make the thug a psychotic with a mother ex, and the ruse led to two of the movie's best-bered moments—the one where Cagney sits in the ring maternal lap, and the other where, atop a blazing rage tank and with only seconds to live, he screams: 'e it, Ma—top of the world'.

ies of the Unexpected (ITV, 9.45) begins, as always, with planetary word from its author, Roald Dahl, tonight, Mr peaks with obvious emotion about how he was flogged school, an ordeal which provides Gallop Foxley with idium of plot. The tale is true, he says, from which ill infer that it is not only the corporal punishment bit appeared to him but the subsequent bizarre railway after many years later between bully and bullied. The did not occur, Mr Dahl told me at a screening. Truth, ore, is not always stranger than fiction.

Evening in Vienna (Radio 2, 8.02) is, in reality, A Night in e of the Viennese masters, including Robert Stolz, reted by the BBC Concert Orchestra, will astonishingly rem this corner of Buckinghamshire for a couple of... If last Wednesday night's performance on Radio 2, pott's Symphony No 2 gave you a taste for his style, to the BBC Northern SO playing his Concerto for Double Orchestra tonight (Radio 3, 10.00). Your total addiction then be practically complete.

ard Miles promises religion, irreligion, sanitation and y in the last of his Miles of London features (Radio 4. These idiosyncratic guide books to the capital have ed capital entertainment and instruction, in that order.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am Gymnast: The vault (r).
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Includes a swap item from Donmark (live), and interviews with Magnus Magnusson, David Soffi (formerly Hutch), and fashion editor Becky Bain.
12.30 pm Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.35 Football Focus: 1.05 Darts: 1.30 News: 1.35 Sports: 1.40 2.20 Racing from Cheltenham: 1.40 and 2.10 Squash (Avic British Open Championship Final): 2.50 International Rugby Union: Scotland v England and at 4.30 Ireland v Wales: 4.40 Final score.

BBC 2

7.40 am Open University, Until 1.55. Closedown: 1.55.
2.35 pm Film: Boom Town (1940). Adventure yarn about the Texas oilfields. With Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy as wildcaters and Claude Rains as a businessman. Filmed in the best 1940s MGM style.
4.30 Chappie: Comedy and music show, with Justin Case and Peter Wear and their singing guest Anita Dobson.
4.55 Horizon: Encounter with Jupiter. Extraterrestrial in the form of a photograph when they looked at Jupiter and its four moons (r).
5.45 Mr Smith's Rock Garden:

5.10 The Pink Panther Show: three cartoons: 1.55.
5.30 News: with Richard Whitmore.
5.45 Wonder Woman: Lynda Carter poses as a singer to crack a record extortion ring.
6.30 Jim'll Fix It: An 18-year-old girl dances the Charleston on top of a taxi, thanks to Jimmy Savile.
7.05 All Creatures Great and Small: Who is poisoning the dogs? Siegfried investigates.
7.55 Little and Large Show: With Syd Little and Eddie Large. News and weather. 8.55 pm News: 9.00 Sports: 9.05 News: 9.10 News: 9.15 News: 9.20 News: 9.25 News: 9.30 News: 9.35 News: 9.40 News: 9.45 News: 9.50 News: 9.55 News: 10.00 News: 10.05 News: 10.10 News: 10.15 News: 10.20 News: 10.25 News: 10.30 News: 10.35 News: 10.40 News: 10.45 News: 10.50 News: 10.55 News: 11.00 News: 11.05 News: 11.10 News: 11.15 News: 11.20 News: 11.25 News: 11.30 News: 11.35 News: 11.40 News: 11.45 News: 11.50 News: 11.55 News: 12.00 News: 12.05 News: 12.10 News: 12.15 News: 12.20 News: 12.25 News: 12.30 News: 12.35 News: 12.40 News: 12.45 News: 12.50 News: 12.55 News: 1.00 News: 1.05 News: 1.10 News: 1.15 News: 1.20 News: 1.25 News: 1.30 News: 1.35 News: 1.40 News: 1.45 News: 1.50 News: 1.55 News: 2.00 News: 2.05 News: 2.10 News: 2.15 News: 2.20 News: 2.25 News: 2.30 News: 2.35 News: 2.40 News: 2.45 News: 2.50 News: 2.55 News: 3.00 News: 3.05 News: 3.10 News: 3.15 News: 3.20 News: 3.25 News: 3.30 News: 3.35 News: 3.40 News: 3.45 News: 3.50 News: 3.55 News: 4.00 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A panel, Les Chiens Savants, by C. V. Eycken from a collection of sporting and animal pictures to be sold in Paris on March 21.

Collecting

Lots of opportunity in Paris

In a week or so it's definitely going to be spring. And, as everyone knows, there is something very special about Paris in the springtime. The sun on the tall old trees by the river as they begin to burst into leaf, the mellow ochre stone of Notre Dame turning to gold, not to speak of the things spring does to those narrow winding streets of the Left Bank with their mouthwatering displays of vegetables, cakes, oysters, faience, old books and wine.

In fact, it is a very good time of year to think of spending a long weekend or a week's holiday in Paris. While its most celebrated tourist attractions—the Louvre, the museums and the Canal—can be visited at any time, the city also has much to offer the adventurous collector. In particular the Paris auction rooms have literally no equivalent over here. The operation is wholly different to the more grandiose of Sotheby's and Christie's, and it's not much like our minor salerooms either.

Some 80 per cent of all auction purchases are made by private collectors in Paris—whereas in London dealers account for most of the sales. This, perhaps, explains the wholly different atmosphere. If you visit the Paris salerooms on a Saturday you will find crowds of excited, chattering collectors milling in and out of the rooms. It has something of the atmosphere of a street market, but the quality of the goods is much higher than the *marché aux puces*.

To take advantage of the attractive possibilities, you need to know how the game is played—and beware the differences in French practice. I will try to explain them.

Most convenient from the point of view of collectors is the practice that all the auctioneers hold their sales in the same building. The auctioneering, "Drouot Rive Gauche", is in a present housed in the disused nineteenth century railway station, the Gare d'Orsay. The address is 7 quai Anatole-France, on the banks of the Seine almost opposite the Louvre—dead opposite the Tuileries Gardens, in fact.

The auctioneers have been constructing themselves a grand new building on the other side of the river which they are due to move into on May 19. The Gare d'Orsay is then going to be converted into a museum of nineteenth century art.

As in London, the French auctions have three high points in the year for which the most important auctions are held: around December, March and June. At this time, grander rooms are hired in the Palais d'Orsay for the very major sales, though the ordinary auction building continues to function as usual.

The auctioneers themselves—there are 70 of them—have offices spread all round Paris but they exhibit and sell at "Drouot Rive Gauche". There are some "two dozen" rooms which the auctioneers hire in turn for their sales. Thus you will be able to view a dozen or so sales, all in the same building, one or two rooms are usually not in use.

The normal practice is to hold pre-sale exhibitions on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm. The goods are auctioned the following day (Monday for Saturday) beginning at 2.0 pm or 2.30 pm. There is also a brief opportunity to view the goods on the day of sale itself, between 11 am and midday. This is particularly important as far as small pre-sale objects are concerned, or anything displayed in a glass case.

During this morning you are allowed to take things out of the case and handle them, which is not permitted on the previous day. The auction takes place in the same room as the exhibition.

On an average day, there will be two or three sales of some quality on view with quite carefully written printed catalogues. Under French law the auctioneers and their experts must guarantee the accuracy of their cataloguing and be prepared to take back items that were wrongly described at any time in the thirty years following the auction.

This is a heavy responsibility and auctioneers and experts alike are insured against making expensive mistakes. It tends to mean that their cataloguing is vaguer than in London; they play safe and describe a picture as "school" rather than "by" rather than attributing it firmly to a named artist.

When I was last there, for instance, the day's offerings comprised a distinguished sale of Continental pottery and porcelain—some delicious and modestly priced French faience

and some real rarities from Meissen—a sale of nineteenth century illustrated books, and a sale of modern paintings of Oriental subjects. These were catalogued, but there were also sales on view in another eight or so rooms.

The uncatalogued sales can vary from the sublime to the ridiculous. On this occasion there was one interesting sale devoted largely to lace with some very good pieces, and some other textiles thrown in. At the other end of the scale are the auctions of pure second hand goods, old cookers, kitchen cabinets, typewriters, etc.

Most alluring are the sales that combine pure junk and oddments of art. One combination lot particularly took my fancy: there were two Turner watercolours (well, style of Turner anyway), one old fashioned adding machine, and two metal wall lights in imitation eighteenth century style. These sales give one that hopeful feeling that overlooked in some corner there may be a master work. If there is no catalogue the standard order of sale will be followed, prints and drawings first, then paintings, objects, furniture, and finally tapestries and carpets.

In the room where a sale is on view there will always be one or two representatives of the auctioneer, as well as the expert or experts who have prepared the catalogue, if any. Either may be applied to for estimates or advice on particular pieces; if you are unable to attend the sale bids can also be left with either, and will be executed free of charge.

The auctioneer in France has a rather different role to his English counterpart. They are not attached to any particular auctioneer and generally work for several; each has a field of speciality and must be on the official list of Drouot accredited experts. Many are also specialist dealers.

The auctions themselves are far more theatrical than their London counterparts. The expert reads out a description of the lot (technically it is this description that is guaranteed), then the auctioneer, standing up with a dangerous looking long handled hammer in his hand, conducts the auction at the top of his voice. He is ably abetted by the "crieur" who echoes the bids and dashes up and down spotting people.

Payment is generally made by cheque or in cash. If a cheque it is vital to establish your creditworthiness with the auctioneer beforehand. As a lot easier for a casual case.

Lots may be collected in during or directly after sale; there are always plenty of staff from the auction office there to help you. Buyers' premium is charged a sliding scale, running from per cent on the cheapest down to 10 per cent on £2,000.

Payment may be made by cheque or in cash. If a cheque it is vital to establish your creditworthiness with the auctioneer beforehand. As a lot easier for a casual case.

The other major condition to be borne in mind is French customs arrangements. Any item worth 10,000 fr (£1,000) or more must through the French customs a week before the sale. Through everything that is a abroad valued over this to make sure that no national treasure is being lost.

The banks are tied in the customs over this; auctioneers cannot obtain a cheque until the correct customs waiver has been obtained.

What this boils down to is that if you want to use the rooms for fun and walk with your purchases, it is to make purchases under £1,000 and be ready to pay in. And there is plenty to be in the £5 to £100 range. Expensive purchases are perfectly possible but involve a lot of paperwork.

Another small point to mind is the buyer's premium; this is charged a per cent up to 6,000 francs, 11.5 per cent from 6,000 to 20,000 francs and at 10 per cent over 20,000 francs. You pay premium on top of the bid price.

Geraldine Norton
Saleroom Correspondent

Good Food
Fraternal partnerships

Restaurateurs and hoteliers are generally coupled together, though they practise arts that carry different risks and opportunities. Comparatively few British caterers resemble John Tovey of Miller Howe, Windermere, in moving easily between the roles of chef-patron and bed-and-board impresario. Couples, of whatever complexion, contrive this transition from restaurant to hotel more easily, especially when the scale of the operation is too small to necessitate the employment of a separate chef, for usually one partner has the temperament to concentrate on customers and business while the other is engrossed in the technique of cooking. There are several hotels like this on the distinction list of the 1980 Good Food Guide, published last week.

However, the unusually high turnover this year in the distinctions awarded by the Good Food Guide's circle of amateur and professional food and wine critics probably does the catering trade much more good than harm, provided the newcomers are mentally and morally equipped to withstand the strong light that beats upon them.

In the normal course of events, most of the new restaurants and hotel-runners would have been described in this column over the past 12 months, but The Times's sabbatical made this impossible, so here are examples.

Jean-Pierre Champeau's Jean-Pierre at Cauldon Lodge has the unusual distinction of being in Staffordshire, historically one of the least favoured counties for eating out, and in the context of this article, it is worth noting that M Champeau is one half of a fraternal partnership that latterly ran a hotel as well as a restaurant (the Normandie at Birtley). It is a tribute to that house's long pre-eminence in its district that so many customers have pursued M Champeau all the way from the far side of Manchester to taste his jambon tru, his robust sauces for snails, hare, and wild duck, and his unusual Norman fermière dishes such as *soif-falisse au cidre* made of nuggets of dark tender meat found low down on the backs of chickens, where most restaurateurs (and housewives) overlook them.

Sometimes, it seems, flavours are rather too forceful here even for francophile tastes: "The garlicky salad dressing made the hair curl, and slices of raw onion do little for the delicate flavour of avocado. Poussin was drenched in calvados, and it is also wise to keep the local Ashburne water handy on the table in case they flame the crêpes too zealously." However, others may find these to be faults on the right side, and besides, for whatever reason, "the white stone house with chequered tablecloths has more geniality and less tobacco smoke than I remember at Birtley."

Jean-Pierre, the Frenchman, is more remarkable for his spirit than for his wine cellar. The next two places, both in the West Midlands and both run by English couples, are remarkable for French wine as well as food. As Food for Thought in Cheltenham Christopher Wickens and Joanna Jane Mahon are evidently generalists rather than specialists by temperament, for they have lately exchanged roles in the restaurant they have spent five years building up: for the past 12 months Christopher has done the cooking with trepidation at first. However, it would be unfair to attribute this year's crowning success solely to the change, for the partnership's strength is all-round good value. The dining room is very small—only 20

covers—and they are doubtless wise to close in Cheltenham Gold Cup week.

Control is correspondingly easier to establish, and it is worth quoting the Guide inspector who worked his way through ratatouille ("the ingredients still distinct, in the mixture"), roast lamb bœuf, sauté with a delicate sauce, simple vegetables, and a decorously dressed salad afterwards: a home-made strawberry ice; prime fillet; fresh fruit; and carefully brewed coffee. He rose from table "after a very substantial meal, with a light stomach and a light heart, and a feeling that my pocket had seldom been lightened of a tinner to better purpose." The wine list recently received includes good Austrian Riesling, and Rioja for light pockets, and for heavier ones some remarkable bottles still under £10, from Ch Léoville-Lascases, 70 to Meursault Goutte d'Or '77.

Much that has been written of Food for Thought also applies to Robin and Marion Jones's Croque-en-Bouche at Malvern Wells, though here it is she who cooks the turbot with sorrel sauce and poulet de Bresse en bourride that are listed as specialties. The style—and again, the value—is a provincial French in character: apart from the main menu, they offer a choiceless five-course dinner for two, with a carefully picked bottle of wine, that only rises above £10 a head if coffee is taken. True, there are still French provinces where such a dinner can be had for less than the equivalent 90 francs, but the point is that the quality and style are directly comparable, "from the oysters and the artichokes with crab mayonnaise in the Caprice d'Auvergne: what a cheese to find in the knickerbocker setting of the Malverns." Here, too, are especially delectable, too, are especially French in their "nice contrast of crunch, colour, flavour and viscosity."

The sense that you are being received into a firmly run but unpretentious private house is an aspect of the experience that belongs to British culture rather than French, and to the countryside rather than the town: the owners' former place in London, the Lavender Hill Restaurant, had many virtues, including the remarkable range of Loire wines also kept here, but it could not express their personalities so completely.

That, in turn, is also true of Ann Carr and Martin MacKeown, who 10 years ago ran a restaurant in Islington (the Peacock) that is still affectionately remembered by its customers. They have wandered round the world and their children have grown up since then, but the farmhouse they have settled in Penlan Olieu in Llanymyneir, in the hills outside Fishguard, has books on the shelves and sheep on the grass, and perfectly expresses an instinct for natural hospitality originally learnt in Ann Carr's native County Down.

As for the food, "hardly a dish was repeated in a fortnight's stay and much was memorable,

from spinach and egg mousses to Caledonian ice-cream, with local gristle or lamb in between." The few wines, quite sufficient for such a place, come from Berry Bros.

Elsewhere the Guide's "tween" symbol for a well-fed and comfortable hotel has lit this year on places in England and Scotland that are by now familiar, but also on less familiar places in Ireland and the Channel Islands. Sark is a paradise for the hotel-fancier, with three houses of contrasting character to choose from. Terry and Janie Scott's Hotel Patie Champ has been the favourite for years, and may be again when a doubt about who will be cooking this season has been resolved, but Peter Hauser and his wife and her sister are rewarded this year for the hard work and zest they have brought to their modernized granite farmhouse, Aval du Creux, at the top of the steep Harbour Hill.

Mr Hauser is Austrian, like several chefs working in the Channel Islands, and he is even equal to playing the zither at the end of a hard night's work in the kitchen. It has been hard to resist distinguishing the place after reports from people's holidays of his inventive soups, light Yorkshire puddings with beef gravy for lunch, hot veal and ham pie, and major evening dishes from Sark lobster to cotelette d'agneau forcée des gourgous (the stuffing made of veal and cranberries). The sweets too have an Austrian magnificence.

Details: Jean-Pierre, Cauldon Lodge, near Waterhouses, Staffs. Tel.: 0481 831 331. Waterhouses 053 861 338. Closed Sunday; Saturday lunch. Must book. Meals 12.10-7.30. A la carte meal with wine about £11.45. Food for Thought, 10 Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham, Glos. Tel.: Cheltenham (0242) 29826. Closed lunch; Sunday: Monday. Must book. Dinner 7.30-9. Table d'hôte dinner 8.30-9.30.

Croque-en-Bouche, 221 Wells Road, Malvern Wells, Hereford and Worcester. Tel.: Malvern 068 451 65612. Closed lunch (except Sunday); Monday: Tuesday; Sunday dinner. Must book. Lunch (Sunday) 12.45-1.45 dinner 7.45-9.15. Table d'hôte lunch 5.75; table d'hôte dinner 8.25.

Penlan Olieu, Llanymyneir, Dyfed, Wales. Tel.: Pwllheli 034 8821 314. Closed lunch. Must book. Dinner 8.30-9. Table d'hôte dinner 5.75. Dinner, bed and breakfast £21.

Aval du Creux, Harbour Hill, Sark, Channel Islands. Tel.: Sark 0481 831 2036. Closed October 3-April 30. Must book. Meals 12.2-3.30. Table d'hôte lunch 5.75; table d'hôte dinner 8.4; a la carte meal with wine about £8.55. Dinner, bed and breakfast £12-15.

C. Times Newspapers Ltd and the Good Food Guide (Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton) at £5.95.

The Good Food Guide was published on March 3 by the Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton at £5.95.

On my way to control the quarter-final candidates match for the World Championship between Korchnoi and Petrosian at Velden, in that tip of Austria near the Yugoslav border, I changed planes at Frankfurt.

The Austrian airliner that took me on from that agreeably international airport did not have a reasonable English newspaper, but it was able to furnish me with Le Figaro and there I came across an interesting interview with Robert Mallet, the rector of the Académie de Paris.

The French newspapers, unlike our more modern press, still stick to the antiquated notion that their learned men have some contribution to make to the sum of human knowledge, and this was an interview about the freedom of action attained by the students of Vincennes.

Professor Mallet starts off with "La vie est la façon persistante de refuser de mourir". On examination one discovers this is a platitude cleverly turned up to look novel. And it struck me how cleverly such a trick resembled modern opening chess theory. All the lines that our young grandmasters take—and I refer to players who are at most in their mid-twenties—are exactly the same, ideas stemming from Steinicz or from Louis Paulsen, conceived more than 100 years ago and given a false innovative patina to make them seem like the very latest theory.

There is for instance the P-K4 line as Black in the Sicilian Defence, of which Paulsen was the originator. It is a line that has slavishly revived some 35 years ago and which nowadays brings undue credit to young grandmasters who claim never to have seen it before.

And this semioticist also applied to such trouperish openings as the King's Indian Defence, the Queen's Gambit and the Ruy Lopez.

Then, too, there are those lines which were considered dead ducks when I was a boy but which exactly fit at last. Professor Mallet's description of having a persistent way of refusing to die. I am thinking of such openings as the Scotch Game and the King's Gambit.

One of the greatest gambits of all time, Rudolf Spielman, once wrote a long article in Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichtung which he entitled "The King's Gambit in its sickness" and then abandoned the King's for the Queen's Gambit, fit it to his head, and excellent results in the great Carlsbad Tournament of 1929.

Yet 30 years later, Spassky was to revive the King's Gambit and show that, if it was not restored to a giant strength, at least it was a very healthy invalid.

Chess

Opening time

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The Austrian airliner that took me on from that agreeably international airport did not have a reasonable English newspaper, but it was able to furnish me with Le Figaro and there I came across an interesting interview with Robert Mallet, the rector of the Académie de Paris.

The French newspapers, unlike our more modern press, still stick to the antiquated notion that their learned men have some contribution to make to the sum of human knowledge, and this was an interview about the freedom of action attained by the students of Vincennes.

Professor Mallet starts off with "La vie est la façon persistante de refuser de mourir". On examination one discovers this is a platitude cleverly turned up to look novel. And it struck me how cleverly such a trick resembled modern opening chess theory. All the lines that our young grandmasters take—and I refer to players who are at most in their mid-twenties—are exactly the same, ideas stemming from Steinicz or from Louis Paulsen, conceived more than 100 years ago and given a false innovative patina to make them seem like the very latest theory.

There is for instance the P-K4 line as Black in the Sicilian Defence, of which Paulsen was the originator. It is a line that has slavishly revived some 35 years ago and which nowadays brings undue credit to young grandmasters who claim never to have seen it before.

And this semioticist also applied to such trouperish openings as the King's Indian Defence, the Queen's Gambit and the Ruy Lopez.

Then, too, there are those lines which were considered dead ducks when I was a boy but which exactly fit at last. Professor Mallet's description of having a persistent way of refusing to die. I am thinking of such openings as the Scotch Game and the King's Gambit.

One of the greatest gambits of all time, Rudolf Spielman, once wrote a long article in Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichtung which he entitled "The King's Gambit in its sickness" and then abandoned the King's for the Queen's Gambit, fit it to his head, and excellent results in the great Carlsbad Tournament of 1929.

Yet 30 years later, Spassky was to revive the King's Gambit and show that, if it was not restored to a giant strength, at least it was a very healthy invalid.

And now he threatens a mating attack by B-Q3.

Bridge

ideas to produce something that was hailed by the average player as a complete innovation and a sign of the originality of Fischer's style.

Just as Wilson showed in his Road to Xanadu that Coleridge's poetry owed much, however involuntarily, to 19th century poets, so one might say that all Fischer's supposedly modern innovations are almost quotations from players like Steinicz and Paulsen.

Come to think of it, the Mallet motto is all-embracing and is applicable to the phenomenon which I have been at pains to point out, the liveliness of the veteran. It contrasts well with the *refus de vivre* manifested by the younger player in the following game from the 47th Soviet Championship tournament at Minsk.

White: Belyavsky, Black: Geller
Queen's Gambit Declined
1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 B-N3 P-K3 3 P-QB3 P-K3 4 P-K3 P-Q3 5 P-K3 P-Q3 6 P-K3 P-Q3 7 P-K3 P-Q3 8 P-K3 P-Q3 9 P-K3 P-Q3 10 P-K3 P-Q3 11 P-K3 P-Q3 12 P-K3 P-Q3 13 P-K3 P-Q3 14 P-K3 P-Q3 15 P-K3 P-Q3 16 P-K3 P-Q3 17 P-K3 P-Q3 18 P-K3 P-Q3 19 P-K3 P-Q3 20 P-K3 P-Q3 21 P-K3 P-Q3 22 P-K3 P-Q3 23 P-K3 P-Q3 24 P-K3 P-Q3 25 P-K3 P-Q3 26 P-K3 P-Q3 27 P-K3 P-Q3 28 P-K3 P-Q3 29 P-K3 P-Q3 30 P-K3 P-Q3 31 P-K3 P-Q3 32 P-K3 P-Q3 33 P-K3 P-Q3 34 P-K3 P-Q3 35 P-K3 P-Q3 36 P-K3 P-Q3 37 P-K3 P-Q3 38 P-K3 P-Q3 39 P-K3 P-Q3 40 P-K3 P-Q3 41 P-K3 P-Q3 42 P-K3 P-Q3 43 P-K3 P-Q3 44 P-K3 P-Q3 45 P-K3 P-Q3 46 P-K3 P-Q3 47 P-K3 P-Q3 48 P-K3 P-Q3 49 P-K3 P-Q3 50 P-K3 P-Q3 51 P-K3 P-Q3 52 P-K3 P-Q3 53 P-K3 P-Q3 54 P-K3 P-Q3 55 P-K3 P-Q3 56 P-K3 P-Q3 57 P-K3 P-Q3 58 P-K3 P-Q3 59 P-K3 P-Q3 60 P-K3 P-Q3 61 P-K3 P-Q3 62 P-K3 P-Q3 63 P-K3 P-Q3 64 P-K3 P-Q3 65 P-K3 P-Q3 66 P-K3 P-Q3 67 P-K3 P-Q3 68 P-K3 P-Q3 69 P-K3 P-Q3 70 P-K3 P-Q3 71 P-K3 P-Q3 72 P-K3 P-Q3 73 P-K3 P-Q3 74 P-K3 P-Q3 75 P-K3 P-Q3 76 P-K3 P-Q3 77 P-K3 P-Q3 78 P-K3 P-Q3 79 P-K3 P-Q3 80 P-K3 P-Q3 81 P-K3 P-Q3 82 P-K3 P-Q3 83 P-K3 P-Q3 84 P-K3 P-Q3 85 P-K3 P-Q3 86 P-K3 P-Q3 87 P-K3 P-Q3 88 P-K3 P-Q3 89 P-K3 P-Q3 90 P-K3 P-Q3 91 P-K3 P-Q3 92 P-K3 P-Q3 93 P-K3 P-Q3 94 P-K3 P-Q3 95 P-K3 P-Q3 96 P-K3 P-Q3 97 P-K3 P-Q3 98 P-K3 P-Q3 99 P-K3 P-Q3 100 P-K3 P-Q3 101 P-K3 P-Q3 102 P-K3 P-Q3 103 P-K3 P-Q3 104 P-K3 P-Q3 105 P-K3 P-Q3 106 P-K3 P-Q3 107 P-K3 P-Q3 108 P-K3 P-Q3 109 P-K3 P-Q3 110 P-K3 P-Q3 111 P-K3 P-Q3 112 P-K3 P-Q3 113 P-K3 P-Q3 114 P-K3 P-Q3 115 P-K3 P-Q3 116 P-K3 P-Q3 117 P-K3 P-Q3 118 P-K3 P-Q3 119 P-K3 P-Q3 120 P-K3 P-Q3 121 P-K3 P-Q3 122 P-K3 P-Q3 123 P-K3 P-Q3 124 P-K3 P-Q3 125 P-K3 P-Q3 126 P-K3 P-Q3 127 P-K3 P-Q3 128 P-K3 P-Q3 129 P-K3 P-Q3 130 P-K3 P-Q3 131 P-K3 P-Q3 132 P-K3 P-Q3 133 P-K3 P-Q3 134 P-K3 P-Q3 135 P-K3 P-Q3 136 P-K3 P-Q3 137 P-K3 P-Q3 138 P-K3 P-Q3 139 P-K3 P-Q3 140 P-K3 P-Q3 141 P-K3 P-Q3 142 P-K3 P-Q3 143 P-K3 P-Q3 144 P-K3 P-Q3 145 P-K3 P-Q3 146 P-K3 P-Q3 147 P-K3 P-Q3 148 P-K3 P-Q3 149 P-K3 P-Q3 150 P-K3 P-Q3 151 P-K3 P-Q3 152 P-K3 P-Q3 153 P-K3 P-Q3 154 P-K3 P-Q3 155 P-K3 P-Q3 156 P-K3 P-Q3 157 P-K3 P-Q3 158 P-K3 P-Q3 159 P-K3 P-Q3 160 P-K3 P-Q3 161 P-K3 P-Q3 162 P-K3 P-Q3 163 P-K3 P-Q3 164 P-K3 P-Q3 165 P-K3 P-Q3 166 P-K3 P-Q3 167 P-K3 P-Q3 168 P-K3 P-Q3 169 P-K3 P-Q3 170 P-K3 P-Q3 171 P-K3 P-Q3 172 P-K3 P-Q3 173 P-K3 P-Q3 174 P-K3 P-Q3 175 P-K3 P-Q3 176 P-K3 P-Q3 177 P-K3 P-Q3 178 P-K3 P-Q3 179 P-K3 P-Q3 180 P-K3 P-Q3 181 P-K3 P-Q3 182 P-K3 P-Q3 183 P-K3 P-Q3 184 P-K3 P-Q3 185 P-K3 P-Q3 186 P-K3 P-Q3 187 P-K3 P-Q3 188 P-K3 P-Q3 189 P-K3 P-Q3 190 P-K3 P-Q3 191 P-K3 P-Q3 192 P-K3 P-Q3 193 P-K3 P-Q3 194 P-K3 P-Q3 195 P-K3 P-Q3 196 P-K3 P-Q3 197 P-K3 P-Q3 198 P-K3 P-Q3 199 P-K3 P-Q3 200 P-K3 P-Q3 201 P-K3 P-Q3 202 P-K3 P-Q3 203 P-K3 P-Q3 204 P-K3 P-Q3 205 P-K3 P-Q3 206 P-K3 P-Q3 207 P-K3 P-Q3 208 P-K3 P-Q3 209 P-K3 P-Q3 210 P-K3 P-Q3 211 P-K3 P-Q3 212 P-K3 P-Q3 213 P-K3 P-Q3 214 P-K3 P-Q3 215 P-K3 P-Q3 216 P-K3 P-Q3 217 P-K3 P-Q3 218 P-K3 P-Q3 219 P-K3 P-Q3 220 P-K3 P-Q3 221 P-K3 P-Q3 222 P-K3 P-Q3 223 P-K3 P-Q3 224 P-K3 P-Q3 225 P-K3 P-Q3 226 P-K3 P-Q3 227 P-K3 P-Q3 228 P-K3 P-Q3 229 P-K3 P-Q3 230 P-K3 P-Q3 231 P-K3 P-Q3 232 P-K3 P-Q3 233 P-K3 P-Q3 234 P-K3 P-Q3 235 P-K3 P-Q3 236 P-K3 P-Q3 237 P-K3 P-Q3 238 P-K3 P-Q3 239 P-K3 P-Q3 240 P-K3 P-Q3 241 P-K3 P-Q3 242 P-K3 P-Q3 243 P-K3 P-Q3 244 P-K3 P-Q3 245 P-K3 P-Q3 246 P-K3 P-Q3 247 P-K3 P-Q3 248 P-K3 P-Q3 249 P-K3 P-Q3 250 P-K3 P-Q3 251 P-K3 P-Q3 252 P-K3 P-Q3 253 P-K3 P-Q3 254 P-K3 P-Q3 255 P-K3 P-Q3 256 P-K3 P-Q3 257 P-K3 P-Q3 258 P-K3 P-Q3 259 P-K3 P-Q3 260 P-K3 P-Q3 261 P-K3 P-Q3 262 P-K3 P-Q3 263 P-K3 P-Q3 264 P-K3 P-Q3 265 P-K3 P-Q3 266 P-K3 P-Q3 267 P-K3 P-Q3 268 P-K3 P-Q3 269 P-K3 P-Q3 270 P-K3 P-Q3 271 P-K3 P-Q3 272 P-K3 P-Q3 273 P-K3 P-Q3 274 P-K3 P-Q3 275 P-K3 P-Q3 276 P-K3 P-Q3 277 P-K3 P-Q3 278 P-K3 P-Q3 279 P-K3 P-Q3 280 P-K3 P-Q3 281 P-K3 P-Q3 282 P-K3 P-Q3 283 P-K3 P-Q3 284 P-K3 P-Q3 285 P-K3 P-Q3 286 P-K3 P-Q3 287 P-K3 P-Q3 288 P-K3 P-Q3 289 P-K3 P-Q3 290 P-K3 P-Q3 291 P-K3 P-Q3 292 P-K3 P-Q3 293 P-K3 P-Q3 294 P-K3 P-Q3 295 P-K3 P-Q3 296 P-K3 P-Q3 297 P-K3 P-Q3 298 P-K3 P-Q3 299 P-K3 P-Q3 300 P-K3 P-Q3 301 P-K3 P-Q3 302 P-K3 P-Q3 303 P-K3 P-Q3 304 P-K3 P-Q3 305 P-K3 P-Q3 306 P-K3 P-Q3 307 P-K3 P-Q3 308 P-K3 P-Q3 309 P-K3 P-Q3 310 P-K3 P-Q3 311 P-K3 P-Q3 312 P-K3 P-Q3 313 P-K3 P-Q3 314 P-K3 P-Q3 315 P-K3 P-Q3 316 P-K3 P-Q3 317 P-K3 P-Q3 318 P-K3 P-Q3 319 P-K3 P-Q3 320 P-K3 P-Q3 321 P-K3 P-Q3 322 P-K3 P-Q3 323 P-K3 P-Q3 324 P-K3 P-Q3 325 P-K3 P-Q3 326 P-K3 P-Q3 327 P-K3 P-Q3 328 P-K3 P-Q3 329 P-K3 P-Q3 330 P-K3 P-Q3 331 P-K3 P-Q3 332 P-K3 P-Q3 333 P-K3 P-Q3 334 P-K3 P-Q3 335 P-K3 P-Q3 336 P-K3 P-Q3 337 P-K3 P-Q3 338 P-K3 P-Q3 339 P-K3 P-Q3 340 P-K3 P-Q3 341 P-K3 P-Q3 342 P-K3 P-Q3 343 P-K3 P-Q3 344 P-K3 P-Q3 345 P-K3 P-Q3 346 P-K3 P-Q3 347 P-K3 P-Q3 348 P-K3 P-Q3 349 P-K3 P-Q3 350 P-K3 P-Q3 351 P-K3 P-Q3 352 P-K3 P-Q3 353 P-K3 P-Q3 354 P-K3 P-Q3 355 P-K3 P-Q3 356 P-K3 P-Q3 357 P-K3 P-Q3 358 P-K3 P-Q3 359 P-K3 P-Q3 360 P-K3 P-Q3 361 P-K3 P-Q3 362 P-K3 P-Q3 363 P-K3 P-Q3 364 P-K3 P-Q3 365 P-K3 P-Q3 366 P-K3 P-Q3 367 P-K3 P-Q3 368 P-K3 P-Q3 369 P-K3 P-Q3 370 P-K3 P-Q3 371 P-K3 P-Q3 372 P-K3 P-Q3 373 P-K3 P-Q3 374 P-K3 P-Q3 375 P-K3 P-Q3 376 P-K3 P-Q3 377 P-K3 P-Q3 378 P-K3 P-Q3 379 P-K3 P-Q3 380 P-K3 P-Q3 381 P-K3 P-Q3 382 P-K3 P-Q3 383 P-K3 P-Q3 384 P-K3 P-Q3 385 P-K3 P-Q3 386 P-K3 P-Q3 387 P-K3 P-Q3 388 P-K3 P-Q3 389 P-K3 P-Q3 390 P-K3 P-Q3 391 P-K3 P-Q3 392 P-K3 P-Q3 393 P-K3 P-Q3 394 P-K3 P-Q3 395 P-K3 P-Q3 396 P-K3 P-Q3 397 P-K3 P-Q3 398 P-K3 P-Q3 399 P-K3 P-Q3 400 P-K3 P-Q3 401 P-K3 P-Q3 402 P-K3 P-Q3 403 P-K3 P-Q3 404 P-K3 P-Q3 405 P-K3 P-Q3 406 P-K3 P-Q3 407 P-K3 P-Q3 408 P-K3 P-Q3 409 P-K3 P-Q3 410 P-K3 P-Q3 411 P-K3 P-Q3 412 P-K3 P-Q3 413 P-K3 P-Q3 414 P-K3 P-Q3 415 P-K3 P-Q3 416 P-K3 P-Q3 417 P-K3 P-Q3 418 P-K3 P-Q3 419 P-K3 P-Q3 420 P-K3 P-Q3 421 P-K3 P-Q3 422 P-K3 P-Q3 423 P-K3 P-Q3 424 P-K3 P-Q3 425 P-K3 P-Q3 426 P-K3 P-Q3 427 P-K3 P-Q3 428 P-K3 P-Q3 429 P-K3 P-Q3 430 P-K3 P-Q3 431 P-K3 P-Q3 432 P-K3 P-Q3 433 P-K3 P-Q3 434 P-K3 P-Q3 435 P-K3 P-Q3 436 P-K3 P-Q3 437 P-K3 P-Q3 438 P-K3 P-Q3 439 P-K3 P-Q3 440 P-K3 P-Q3 441 P-K3 P-Q3 442 P-K3 P-Q3 443 P-K3 P-Q3 4

Travel

Two views of the new Zimbabwe

and have been California Jumbo lumbered down the swimming pools and acaranda trees. But this Salisbury, capital of the black-ruled country in a

similarity between the capital of Zimbabwe and American west coast with the touchdown of the first British Air-let to fly the flag from on to Salisbury since sanc-tions were imposed 14 years ago.

we taxied in front of the airport terminal a heli-icopter gunship swooped over in salute—this was just the general election that Mr Robert Mugabe his hide victory. It was a gala for BA, for our pilot, and for all the relatives and well-wishers crowding the airport

ch peace now a reality than a hope, British people are already up for aircraft seats and hotel rooms in Zimbabwe. want to renew old contracts make fresh connections.

month's trade fair in vato is a strong draw-ing of business people in Zimbabwe to find must sleep in Bulawayo commute to Salisbury for

top of this, many people from friends or rela-tives in Zimbabwe can now come a visit, and once there, some of the country than on. Others, knowing the country nor the a, can consider a holiday, can they expect?

will be some months before new government can be to delivering the peace mixed during the election

From what I heard in Salis-bury and subsequently in Lon-don, Mr David Smith, Minister of Trade and Industry in the Mugabe government, is being told that it will take two to three months before the country's game parks and tourist lodges can be re-equipped and re-staffed after the depredations of the last five years of war.

It will be at least the winter of this year before British tour operators will be prepared to market package holidays on any scale.

Zimbabwean tourist literature adequately describes the country's undeniable beauties but effectively ignores the war and its effects.

Thus, should you turn to the Salisbury Publicity Association's colourful brochure, Rhodesia's capital: Salisbury, there is a come-hither section about Lake McIlwaine.

It is described as Salisbury's "water playground". The lake also happens to be an outlet for the capital's sewage and bathes risk bilharzia, a particularly nasty water-borne disease.

That may rank as pretty run-of-the-mill as reticence goes in sub-tropical tourist literature, although the claim that "fishing here is excellent, particularly for bream and tiger fish", is true.

It is also true, however, that African poachers are out in force to fish bream for Salis-bury's restaurants. The warden and his staff, depleted by army service, have been hard put to stop them.

In time, some attractive package tours are going to be put together. These will probably be split between Salisbury and Victoria Falls, Lake Kariba or Wankie National Park. Zimbabwe does not have a coastline and the British visitor is likely to yearn for water, even an inland, man-made stretch which most Zimbabwean lakes are.

This is a beautiful country and has long had a tourist industry based on visitors from South Africa and, until the outbreak of war, from neighbouring black states. Zimbabweans, black and white, are keen to replenish foreign exchange reserves eaten up by the guerrilla war and sanctions—which among other things have had a devastating effect on the price of petrol.

They seem determined not to market the country in a big way until the hotel and recreation infrastructure is up to it. That I think, won't take long: I know I should like to return soon and see as much of the new Zimbabwe as I can.

Ross Davies

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Elephants in the long grass on the shores of Lake Kariba.

One beauty spot that many visitors to the new Zimbabwe will make for is Lake Kariba, on the border with Zambia. It was built in the late 50s—mainly for a hydro-electricity scheme providing power to both countries.

Rupert Fothergill was one of the naturalists who master-planned this "Operation Noah". More than 6,000 animals, including 1,866 impala, but only one bush baby, were sent packing to higher ground on what are now Fothergill Island and the neighbouring Spurling Island.

Fothergill Island is owned by Rob Fynn, who holds a civil engineering degree from Bristol University. He runs it for people to get close to nature

without intruding. Visitors stay in traditional, thatched huts (named after the displaced local tribespeople), with no electricity and only a hurricane lamp for light.

Morning comes early in these parts. You are within the Tropic of Capricorn and only 800 miles south of the equator. Leave your alarm clock at home and let the fish eagles and goliath herons wake you. Dawn over the lake, with its Zambezi escarpment backdrop, is an experience you should not miss (along with dawn in the rain forest at Victoria Falls).

As the day begins the smell of smoked fish drifts over you from the nearby village, where the island's 100 workers live. Breakfast is taken in Rob Fynn's first island building, an enormous wood and thatch structure with the restaurant downstairs and the bar/observatory area above.

Help yourself to fruit, fish and cereals followed by bacon and eggs. Eat well; with all the walking to be done, your energy will soon be sapped if you do not.

For your ZRS35 (£22.00) daily charge (lake view hut \$45) you get three meals a day and unlimited game viewing safaris by boat, Land-Rover and on foot, all accompanied by Fynn or one of his trained guides.

Elephant are everywhere and are particularly visible in the dry season when they go down to the lake shore for water. Buffalo should be approached with caution, but with luck you can get within 30-40 yards.

Hippopotamuses are a great delight in submerging 10 feet from the water, swimming under your boat and re-emerging up to 15 minutes later, jaws open and water boiling. A quite unnerving experience. And of course there are birds to be seen all the time.

It is by the quality of their cheap wines that a shipper or a merchant should be appraised. Here are twelve recommendations for the sort of wines those who found them drink regularly themselves, or use as the "mouthwash" to prepare the palate for something important, because then both the fine wine and the modest bottle invariably taste better.

One novelty is the white Egrí Leányka, from the region around the delightful Hungarian town of Eger, famous for its red Bull's Blood. The word Leányka, which is the name of the particular grape, means "maiden". Two centuries ago a London wine auction included some Hungarian wine of the same name that can be drunk today.

It has a watery, flowery bouquet, definite weight plus some fullness, and finishes dry, with the sort of minerally freshness you get after sucking a pebble.

Shippers R. & C. Vianez have given some bottle age after bringing it over and this additional substance makes it multi-purpose, for aperitifs or with many dishes. Just coming out to the market, Leányka costs about £2 from John Allen, 1877, High Street, Leamington, and, soon, from branches of Safeway in the south.

A new red from Chile has been found by Matthew Clark, pioneer of other South American wines. 1977, Villa San Pedro, Huelva, and, soon, from branches of Safeway in the south.

veys warmth and firmness (£2.69 from the Carrefour Hypermarket, Bristol, who also have the Garrafeira for £2.37). Open both a few hours before drinking; they can also remain, cooled up, once opened, for a day or more.

Independent merchants are usually proud of their basic wines. Recently-established Haynes, Hanson & Clarke, whose customers are often budget-conscious but who want wines to make an impression, have a range of social occasions, have a remarkable red vin de table—smelling sunnily of south-west France, generous in taste, and clean-cut (£1.75 from Haynes Hanson & Clarke, 26 Kensington Church Street, W8).

City of London merchants Russell & McIvor ship a crisp white, Cuvee de Beauchêne, from one of their Loire suppliers that has the "green" charm and steely freshness of the Sauvignon grape that is probably, in the region, the best.

Their Gresham Via Rouge is bright red, fruity, with a substantial after-taste. (Both cost £1.44 the 70 cl. bottle, or £1.92 the litre, from Russell & McIvor, The Rectory, St Mary-at-Elm, EC3).

Avery's of Bristol are famous for individuality and perception—their labels carry the assurance of a definite house style. They have the skill to find and bottle wines that customers have enjoyed for many years. (It should be remembered that, although more and more wines are being bottled in their country of origin, the significance of an AC on labels can refer only to region and method of production—it cannot guarantee quality.) Avery's red and white modestly named "Clochemerle" (each £1.19) are good value: the straw-toned white is robust, good as an aperitif or with first courses and salads, the red warmly fragrant and buxom in style.

Avery's "Ronsac" has a pronounced bouquet, reminiscent of new wood and herbs, a lightness and balance that makes it a very good pet vin. Indeed, if you are not a wine drinker, though you could not see the label might ascribe to it a distinguished name (and a far higher price). Ronsac costs £2.25 from Avery's, Park Street, Bristol.

Corney & Barrow, sometimes described as "the wine merchants' wine merchant" because of their wonderful reserves, celebrate their 200th birthday this year. In their new premises, an elegant 18th century house at 12 Helmer Row, EC1, they preserve all the finest traditions of the British wine trade, and demonstrate the cachet of their label is never bested on an indifferent bottle.

Their red Vin de Table, bottled by Lebeque, is appealing, soft, gently fruity (£1.84). The red "Beaujean" from Loran is an amiable, cosy drink with an enticing backtaste (£1.95). They also have a 1976 Côte de Provence VDQS rose that is far more interesting than many pink wines.

This, from Les Maitres Vignerons de la Presqu'île de St Tropez, is a definite, shimmering dog rose pink with a hint of tawny at its heart. It has an uncomplicated southern earth, a full style, easy to appreciate but always well-balanced, and a firm dry finish (in a 74cl bottle, it costs £2.23).

The 1972 Dão Reserva is a bigger, close-packed wine, evocative of the sunbaked mountain vineyards and with the amiable style and slightly "rusty" and flavour that con-

tributed to the quality of their cheap wines that a shipper or a merchant should be appraised. Here are twelve recommendations for the sort of wines those who found them drink regularly themselves, or use as the "mouthwash" to prepare the palate for something important, because then both the fine wine and the modest bottle invariably taste better.

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Fothergill Island is a photographer's paradise. Take lots of film and store it in a cool place, such as a cool box. Do not try to shoot wildlife pictures with anything under a 200mm lens (I used a 300mm and it was too short). A 500mm lens would be ideal.

Exposure levels: for colour use indicated meter readings (watch shadows from trees in the bush), but black and white needs 1-2 stops extra with reduced development.

A fixed lens camera is really useless. The animals are wild and you will not get close enough for a decent image. Protect the camera from water and sand with a little smear of Vaseline round the openings. Keep cameras out of the sun—the temperature can reach 100°F.

Brian Harris

Drink Tasty dozen

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City of London merchants Russell & McIvor ship a crisp white, Cuvee de Beauchêne, from one of their Loire suppliers that has the "green" charm and steely freshness of the Sauvignon grape that is probably, in the region, the best.

Their Gresham Via Rouge is bright red, fruity, with a substantial after-taste. (Both cost £1.44 the 70 cl. bottle, or £1.92 the litre, from Russell & McIvor, The Rectory, St Mary-at-Elm, EC3).

Avery's of Bristol are famous for individuality and perception—their labels carry the assurance of a definite house style. They have the skill to find and bottle wines that customers have enjoyed for many years. (It should be remembered that, although more and more wines are being bottled in their country of origin, the significance of an AC on labels can refer only to region and method of production—it cannot guarantee quality.) Avery's red and white modestly named "Clochemerle" (each £1.19) are good value: the straw-toned white is robust, good as an aperitif or with first courses and salads, the red warmly fragrant and buxom in style.

Avery's "Ronsac" has a pronounced bouquet, reminiscent of new wood and herbs, a lightness and balance that makes it a very good pet vin. Indeed, if you are not a wine drinker, though you could not see the label might ascribe to it a distinguished name (and a far higher price). Ronsac costs £2.25 from Avery's, Park Street, Bristol.

Corney & Barrow, sometimes described as "the wine merchants' wine merchant" because of their wonderful reserves, celebrate their 200th birthday this year. In their new premises, an elegant 18th century house at 12 Helmer Row, EC1, they preserve all the finest traditions of the British wine trade, and demonstrate the cachet of their label is never bested on an indifferent bottle.

PARLIAMENT, March 14, 1980

Even a compromise amendment fails to rescue Abortion Bill

House of Commons The fourth day of the report stage of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill ended with MPs in the midst of a series of divisions. The report stage was adjourned until July 4.

The last Friday in the Commons for private members' legislation. When debate resumed, Samuel Sikin (Leisham, Devon, Lab) moved an amendment which, he said, might be the last possible chance of a compromise on the controversial over the adjective "substantially" which had, by a majority of three votes, been retained in the original version of the Bill.

A doctor would be required to consider whether or not the woman's life or of serious injury to her physical and mental health would be substantially greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

Mr Sikin said his amendment would mitigate against the word "substantially". The amendment would make it clear that "substantially" greater risk would still remain binding in law if the only consideration was of the statistical probability applicable to pregnancies generally.

But if there was some other factor—something the doctor had found on examination or above, or in the light of the statistical argument—then the word "substantially" would be excluded from consideration.

Mr Sikin said his amendment would mitigate against the word "substantially". The amendment would make it clear that "substantially" greater risk would still remain binding in law if the only consideration was of the statistical probability applicable to pregnancies generally.

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Parental rights on sex education

House of Lords Parents had a right to know what schools proposed to do over sex education and to withdraw their children if they felt it would be harmful, Viscount Ingleby (Ind) said when moving a new clause which proposed to make it a duty of local education authorities to give notice when sex education was being given.

He said there were some books circulating which dealt with sex in a neutral way. Others like *Make It Happen* included badly written and said some people felt sexually attracted to animals. There were pressure groups like Gay Teachers who were seeking to introduce sex education in schools in order to promote their teaching that homosexuality was both natural and normal.

Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab), for the Opposition, said he was not sure a new clause would deal with the situation. It said nothing at all, and could not say anything about the competence of the headmaster to prepare sex education.

There had to be a common syllabus which was approved by people who were competent to be able to pass it on. It would be a matter of opportunity to discuss it either at report stage or later in the year.

This was a subject on which parents had a right to full information and she hoped that within the proposals for school government there would be able to take up this right. The new clause was withdrawn and the committee stage was concluded.

House adjourned, 2.37 p.m.

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House adjourned, 2.37 p.m.

Request for swift action on EEC draft budget

European Parliament Strasbourg A complaint about Community overspending since Parliament rejected the 1980 budget was voiced by Mr Richard Balfe (London, South Inner, Soc) who also felt that MEPs should not try to get the new budget through in their outstanding expenses.

Parliament approved a Budgets Committee resolution which considered it essential for the Council of Ministers to present the draft budget at the April session of Parliament.

Mr Balfe said that if the Parliament overspent and ignored a treaty in one area it could ignore it in other ways, too. MEPs knew also that when the budget was passed they would be reimbursed for expenses which had been cut since the earlier budget was rejected.

Mr Allan Rogers (South East Wales, Soc) Vice-President of the Parliament, presiding, said they should not impute unworthy motives to colleagues.

Mr Balfe said he included himself in his remarks on expenses. We have (he said) a pious resolution with a notional timetable,

asking Parliament to do the impossible while the House is quite willing to carry on behaving illegally.

A parliament which chooses to behave in a manner which it knows is illegal and dishonourable does not deserve the respect of Europe and will not get it.

Mr Rogers said that the Budget Committee, said everyone should resist the temptation to ascribe impure motives to other MEPs.

Parliament had to tell the Council they wanted to see the budget as quickly as possible to save any overlapping with the 1981 budget.

The resolution was adopted.

Earlier, a motion by Mr Balfe seeking to abandon the present schedule for March 24-25 because there was insufficient budgetary cover was rejected. That session will consider farm price proposals.

Parliament rejected a motion by the Socialist Group, tabled with a request for an urgent debate, calling on member governments to try to stop the South Africa with the same vigour as they were pursuing the boycott of the Olympic Games.

Roy Hay

Pamela Vandyke Price

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

Japan Style exhibition which opened at the V & A this week, occupies nearly half of the first floor of their Regent Street building in London and their display department has done them proud—you really should go very early in the morning to appreciate it fully.

As you would expect, there are fans and lanterns and paper parasols and kimonos (long sleeves reaching to the floor for single girls, shorter when you marry). All very pretty, but saying "A present from Tokyo" as clearly as if you had bought them in the airport shop. I mean, what do you do with them when you get them back to Lowestoft?

The outstanding feature of the whole display is, for me, the porcelain. Some of it is by Japan's foremost designer, Masahiro Mori, whose work is also being shown by the V & A. It includes a strikingly striped royal blue and white set of hors d'oeuvre dishes which fit together in a geometric pattern. At £125 it is perhaps destined for a chic open-plan penthouse studded with genuine Mondrians, but in a more modest price range there is a companion set, pepper and mustard set, in the same stripes and on its own wooden tray, at £21.50.

Most of the cups and bowls come in sets of five, rather than the sixes we are used to: the Japanese like asymmetry in their tableware, as well as in their flower-arranging, it seems. Among them is a particularly delicate set of handless teacups whose pattern is achieved by arranging grains of rice in the porcelain before firing. They melt with the heat, leaving a tiny, almost transparent, design behind. £25 for five.

Collectors may like to concentrate on the display of masks in papier-mâché from £30 and in clay from £75, and on the dolls, made in lavish fabrics moulded onto the forms. These vary from £12.50 to £250.

Japan at Liberty continues until March 29 and they will

have a smaller selection of Japanese specialties until July 20, when the V & A Japan Style exhibition ends. Odd idea, that. Like Chippendale-style furniture, it makes me feel I'm getting an impression rather than an actuality. On the other hand, that is probably the closest we shall ever get to the Oriental mind. On the other, that which is styled in Japan these days may very well be made in Birmingham.

Accomplished flower arrangers will enjoy trying their hand at Ikebana after watching the demonstrations. There are simple glazed clay trays in black, white and navy in three sizes at £5, £8 and £15 and pin holders which come in boxes containing a whole circle and a half circle which can be used individually or fit together to make an oval. In two sizes, £1.50 and £2.50 per pair.

At the less expensive end there is very pretty wedding gift stationery at 65p. This consists of two sheets of coloured paper, beautifully folded and finished with a glued-on silver paper. You unfold the paper, place money between, write your message and replace the knot.

Shops that specialise in middle-Eastern rugs and carpets can be a little overwhelming if you don't know much about the subject. You enter, reverence to buy a rug, and are discouraged by the brandishing of your bits of which you had brought in hope that you would find something to go with your scheme.

So, The Rug Shop, opened this week at 10 Tottenham Street, London SW1, something rather different. Owners actually want to be the mystique out of a traditional Persian and Tu designs and to encourage owners to think of their furnishings rather than their rugs.

We don't want to be blundered, collectors, where everything is round the carpet and see nothing else," says Omidjian, who first became interested in Kelims by her husband, whose family is in Oriental carpets since 1890.

"We want to give a time to try things out on whether the rugs they like go with their existing things. It is terribly difficult to imagine them going to until you see the effect yourself, so if they don't what they have chosen can always bring it back." She and her partner, Dr. Bostle-Wilbraham, who is an interior designer, travel extensively to find stock and regularly visit Pakistan, Turkey and Iran. They do not deal in carpets because "Persian rugs are much heavier and demanding—they tend to over a room". Instead have fine Kelims and woven textiles made in nomadic tribes who with the Caucasus, and wove carpets on flat, pegged which were easy to roll up carry away when they go on.

Apart from rugs, they cushions at £23 to £30 and floor cushions from £50 particularly interesting one, whose sides and top have covered with the colour woven fabric originally used for bedding bags. You have the design of your own made into an ottoman between 1970 and 1980, according to the age and quality of the rug.

Although there are very examples of contemporary die-Eastern work which is considered to be too crude, are some striking examples made about 30 years ago, are, naturally, not as expensive as the older rugs. The one striped is made by the Ka tribe of Shiraz, whose brilliant colour is expressive the predominant oranges, turquoise of this otherwise distant design.

But says Jane Omidjian: "Rug Shop does not intend to specialise in the very 'We aren't in competition the people who are for highbrow about these things just want to keep things within'—everything reach."

Mothers who are house-bound by small children and feel they have creative energies to spare might be encouraged by the example of two enterprising women who are making a success out of selling their daughters' clothes.

Catherine Horwood started selling "Castaways" from her own home two years ago. Then a third daughter joined the other two and the room she was using for her shop had to be given up. So she decided to go into mail order.

As second-hand clothes, into mail order won't go, Mrs Horwood began to specialise in hatches of seconds and in spite of the fact that she instantly put herself into competition with big stores who buy seconds for their sales, she rapidly extended her range.

Her new spring brochure includes red or navy velvet shorts at £2.25, with matching short-sleeved tops, striped with white, at £2.95. Both fit ages two to three. There are also hardwearing cotton cord dungarees in beige, brown, black or navy, 92cm and 98cm, £2.90; 104cm, 110cm and 122cm, £3.50.

For babies there is a special purchase of stretch suits for second and third sizes at £1.90 in white, pink, yellow, blue or turquoise, and Zorbi red label seconds nappies in cotton and viscose at £11.50 per dozen.

For orders up to £5 and 60p p&p, over £10 and another 10p in the £1. For a complete list and details of the postal charges, write to Castaways, 133 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 8U.

Danielle Harris also started two years ago, selling her daughter's outgrown but not outworn clothes. When she found she had several suitcases full of very expensive clothes which had been worn only four or five times she began to sell them to a friend. Then she became aware of a much wider market and started to accept other people's nearly-new to resell.

She insists that the clothes must be in perfect condition and she works on a sale-or-return basis.

She has been so successful that last week she opened a shop at 190 Albany Street, London NW1, where she stocks 4,000 items of clothing for children from baby sizes to 15 years. There is also a stock of maternity wear, sold on the same principle.

Stock is constantly changing but at the moment she has, for example, a one-shouldered cotton sun dress for a five-year-old which cost £25 and is now £2.50 and a French-made coat for a seven-year-old which was originally £85 and is selling at £22.

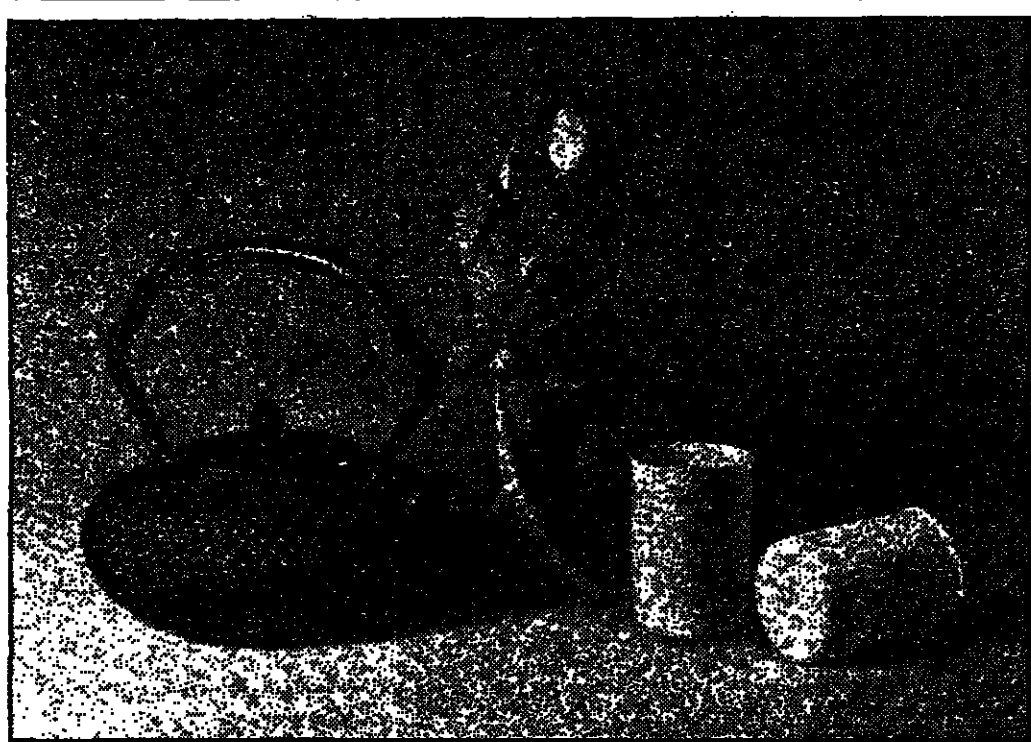
The shop, called Out Grooms, also has a dress designed exclusively for it—a one-size smock dress which is cleverly cut to fit a four-year-old as a long party dress up to a 10-year-old as a short smock. Theoretically, that means that for £3.50 you have a dress that will last for six years. In practice, don't be surprised if your darling daughter tries to wrap it round your neck after the third year, but then in the children's clothes market every extra year of wear is not only a bonus but a minor miracle.

Mothering Sunday tomorrow is a harmless enough festival, first with its religious origins and then in the seventeenth century to mark the annual return of apprentices and servants to their mother church and mother's home, bearing flowers and Simnel cake. I can't work up any particular sentiment about the occasion, though, and if anything I feel that Mums deserve a bit of spoiling on rather more than one set day per year.

But when Americans create a totally different mothers' day in May, started by a distraught spinster on the death of her mother, and a fathers' day for



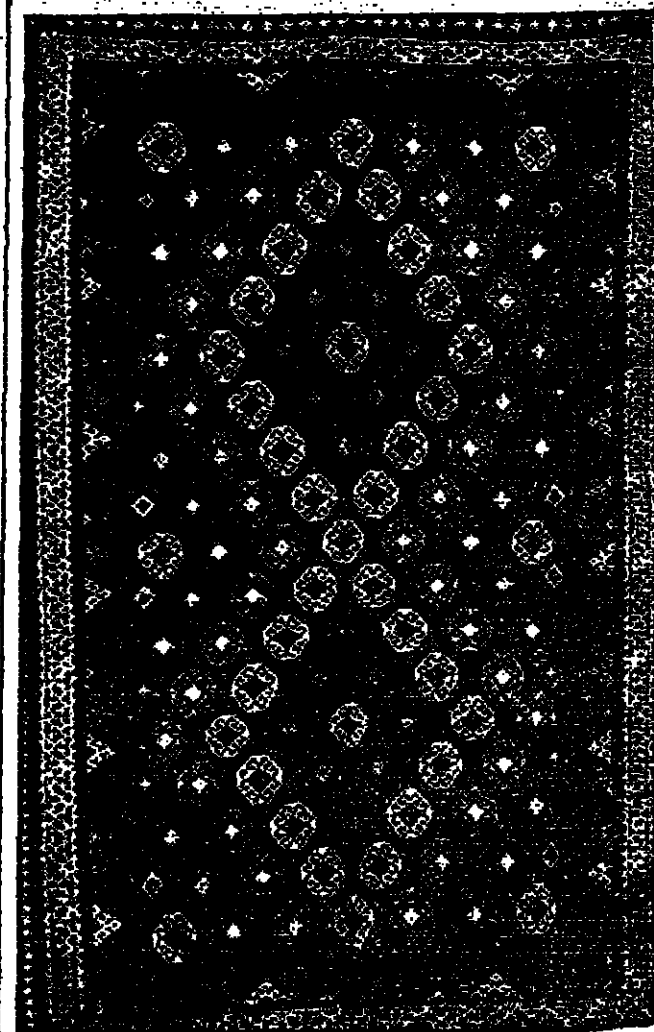
Those who would like a touch of the East but cannot get to the Japanese exhibitions in London need go no further than their nearest large Boots. These hexagonal plastic boxes are lacquered in black and painted in red and gold. The smaller, 3½in x 1½in, fits into the larger, 4½in x 2½in. £8.25 for the nest.



Above: cast iron kettle, £39, gelsa doll in blue brocade, £69, fine porcelain tea cups, £25 for a set of five. All from Liberty's. Right: pure silk short kimono, £56.25 with matching camiknickers, £42.50 in pale grey and pink or black with royal blue, designed by Julia for Charles Grahame's Dazzle range at Harrods. Butterfly, Sheffield and Montecito, Ruthin, North Wales.



Above: the Oriental lacquered style in furniture. Bed, including side tables, £503, four-door wardrobe £886. Called Yokai in black robe with gold trim by Verardo at Maples, Tottenham Court Road and to order through other Maples branches.



Kashka carpet in orange-red with turquoise and brown design, wool on a cotton warp. Rugs, £370 from The Rug Shop, Eccleston Street, London SW1.

Anyone capable of putting up a shelf without needing to call in a plasterer to repair the damage has my owed respect. It may be something to do with the fact that I tend to go about DIY with a spoon and fork, as I never have the right tools handy, but I know from painful experience that no shelf of mine is likely to bear any thing heavier than a packet of envelopes without bringing the wall down with it.

Those who have no such tire-some flaw in their capabilities or better still, have a tame handyperson in the house may like to know of a new shelving system called Colour-Shelf.

These melamine-faced shelves have been matched to the four most popular shades from ICI's Dulux range of paints: van-dyke, honeysuckle and cackin, which Colour-Shelf somewhat confusingly call dark chocolate, beige and birch green. There

is also white, which is at least unambiguous. The shelves can be matched to standards and shelf supports, stove enamelled in exactly the same colours, or can be bought separately.

The result is complete colour coordination—you even get colour-matched screws to fix the standards to the wall, which you may choose to paint to match. They make a nice change from boring old teak.

The shelves come in four widths, 6in, 9in, 12in and 15in, and three lengths, 24in, 36in and 48in. Prices vary from £1.36 for the 24in x 6in to £6.55 for the 48in x 15in. Brackets are from £1.72 per pair for a 6in shelf to £2.81 for the 15in size and standards are sold in 2, 3, 4 and 5ft lengths from £2.81 to £7.07 each. They are available from Harris Home Care, Manchester; Lewis's, Birmingham; Fobels, Coventry; and Selfridges, London.

elections held about a year ago, a general election tend to be badly for the Government, and in these conditions, Southern East is a poor result. The swing of almost 13 per cent in the Conservatives is in fact, that those suffered by our at Pollok, Walthamstow and Cambridge, in 1967, worse than the swings against the Conservatives of eight to ten per cent recorded at Glasgow and Macclesfield in 1965. There is no mystery why elements so often do badly, nor after the initial good will is out: it is a matter of electoral strategy to get the unpopular parts of the programme of the way early. Mrs. Thatcher's Government, more than most, has made a virtue of rigour, of its remedies, and a rigour is natural. It is one thing to vote for a policy involving salutary hardships in future, and another to resist the chance of discomfort when in the midst of them. There are special factors at Southern East to the Conservatives' difficulties. Their candidate had at as slight a prior relationship with his constituency as it is possible to have. Voters do not think that they are being

UTTERING UP

prospect of continued sales to the Soviet Union of subsidized butter from the European Community exemplifies the absurdity to which the common agricultural policy has led. Prices have been set so high that they encourage dairy concerns to produce more butter than consumers inside the Community want to buy, hence the "butter mountain." As part of the process of getting rid of it the surplus are offered cut-price—often at prices well below those paid by the Community. The preference is made up by a subsidy which comes from the Community budget, and thus falls on the British taxpayer, for Britain is the largest contributor. The Soviet authorities, having bought the butter cheaply, sell it to their own consumers at something like eight pence a pound, thus making a tidy profit for themselves. They, the producers and middlemen gain. The Community taxpayers, particularly in Britain, lose.

There is little enough reason
the best of times, to make the
et Union this sort of present.
the invasion of Afghanistan
ridiculous. But Britain has
been alone among the Nine
demanding that butter sales
the Soviet Union should be
opped. This is partly because

report on open government commissioned by the executive of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, details of which were published in *The Times* on Thursday, concludes that "the Civil Service could probably live with a freedom of information act without too much difficulty". This, will surprise anyone who regard senior officials as second only to ministers and governmental press officers in their hostility towards genuine openness. Ironically, however, the association's executive decided last week that the report's openness should be kept secret for the time being.

would make salutary reading for the Prime Minister. Mr. Maude, the Paymaster-General and minister responsible for the co-ordination of Government information services, summing the impressive reserves of urbane cynicism acquired during a lifetime in Fleet Street and Westminster, delivered a withering attack on the proponents of an "emergency government" at a London University debate about press freedom on February 29. Theirs, he said, was the "hobby-horse" of a "small, based on 'such a pathetic reality'." The more journalists created the Cabinet and its committees, he claimed, the more

The announcement on March 3 by the Secretary of State, Mr. Mark W. Rusk, that the Government accepts the main arguments of the report on special educational needs and intends to introduce appropriate legislation in the parliamentary session will, I am sure, be generally welcomed. It furnishes an indication of a belated recognition in government circles that enterprise and economic realism must be combined with compassion and a genuine concern for the handicapped and underprivileged. The vice-chairman of the Warburton committee, I should like to say, is three points:

1. Legislative changes and a clearer government commitment to the main thrust of the Warnock report (though important) will not themselves be enough. There must be a willingness to commit some national resources, how limited, to research and to the promotion of development work in key areas (especially in service areas) for the under-fives and over-

many of the most important
snack recommendations (especi-
ally those to do with parental in-
volvement and inter-professional
collaboration) require changes of
a more massive nature. It
includes more than a massive inter-
change of new resources. In other
words, we shall be able to do what

made use of, to restore some remote party potentate to his place on the front bench. Mr Taylor has a great deal more constituency work to do before he can count the seat as securely his.

The result was a good one for the Liberals. It is proverbial that when a Conservative administration is losing popularity the Liberals do well, picking up the votes of Tories who cannot bring themselves to go all the way across to Labour. Southend may indicate that this pattern is reasserting itself at a time when the party has come through a bad period with little loss of support nationally than might have been expected. But they started from such a small local base and fought a campaign so much concerned with personalities that it would be wrong to read too much into the figures.

For the Government, the result is less important than it might seem. They have a secure working majority and every prospect of remaining in office for another three or four years. In terms of crude electoral arithmetic they can spare any number of Southends. Morale is another matter. When Churchill said that one vote was enough

THE RUSSIANS

it has been more militant than the others in its reaction to Afghanistan and partly because it has nothing to gain from the sales. (The Russians have made it clear that even when it is available they will not buy the salted butter produced in this country). Countries such as France, Ireland and Denmark, which have butter to sell the Soviet Union have insisted that traditional trade flows should be maintained. They have criticized measures taken by the Commission to restrict butter sales to the aftermath of Afghanistan. Of the 140,000 tonnes of butter exported last year to the Soviet Union, about half came from France.

Emerging Community policy— or lack of it—reflects these different views. On the one hand the Council of Ministers, on the insistence of the exporting countries, has agreed to the principle of respecting traditional trade flows. On the other the European Parliament, under pressure from British Conservatives, recently passed a resolution calling for a complete stoppage of sales of surplus commodities to the Soviet Union. This has put the Commission in a difficult position. Its response has been to say that the sales will in fact continue, but to imply that the quantity will be smaller than last year's record

decision-making would be drawn into ever smaller and more secret groups.

Now that Whitehall's senior administrators, economists, statisticians and lawyers seem reconciled to a degree of freedom of information, Mr Maude, his Cabinet colleagues and the directors of Whitehall's information divisions whom he co-ordinates, are increasingly out of tune with a cause that has now all but achieved the status of conventional wisdom. The Callaghan Cabinet, in its dying days last year, expressed itself in favour of a code of practice on open government. The next Labour administration will certainly be obliged by its manifesto to go that far, even if it stops short of a full-blooded stature. The First Division civil servants are preparing for such a continuity on the solid trade union grounds that will affect their working conditions.

The research paper on which the report is based discusses the need widely felt by senior civil servants. These deserve to be taken seriously. It would be unnecessary and regrettable if the career Civil Service became politicised as a consequence of freedom of information legislation. The author of the paper, Mr Linstead, is right to point out

needed if we really want to and feel the need to.

3. Government ministers and government departments are not always best at recognizing changing needs nor at encouraging initiatives and mobilizing an enthusiastic and sustained response from a wide variety of people in all sorts of voluntary and statutory organizations. For this reason, I believe that the future development of special educational provision would be better ensured if a new independent national advisory committee (of voluntary, unpaid, expert advisers, not a quango) were set up on the lines recommended in the Warnock report. If social security needs and deserves a national advisory committee, so surely do all those youngsters whose whole lives may be unnecessarily stunted and diminished if they do not receive the best help we can give at the right time.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. COOKE.
White House,
Grange Lane,
Rischolme,
Lincoln.
March 5.

Assisted places scheme

From Mr Michael Adams

Sir, The current controversy about the assisted places scheme, which has from time to time found expression in your columns, appears

he could have gone on to say that it might be better than a hundred. In a party with a comfortable majority MPs feel more at liberty to kick against the official line and nurse their consciences. Thursday's vote in the Lords on school transport is by no means the first sign that even the Conservative Party is not immune to such tendencies these days. There is no lack of members, both on the back benches and in the cabinet itself, who are worried about the tenor of party policy. Southend will increase their doubts, though there is no body of adherents for a clear railway programme. An incomes policy, for instance, is generally seen to be unattainable in present circumstances even by those who regard it as desirable. Government MPs as well as voters feel uncomfortable when the hardships of official policy are felt, while the rewards remain, inevitably, still hypothetical. But the Government is secure enough to remain in office until the time when the voters should begin to materialize. It will be then that the electorate can judge, and will, whether the sacrifice was worthwhile.

figure and the subsidies lower. Sales of up to 80,000 tonnes are being envisaged — representing the average of recent years—and they will be almost wholly confined to stocked, as opposed to fresh, butter. A new system has been instituted to allow a closer watch on what goes on.

The European Parliament should keep up its pressure against these sales. But the real absurdity is not so much that subsidized butter goes to the Soviet Union, that Community policies should lead to the need for such costly exports at all, or whether to the Soviet Union or anywhere else. The Soviet case should be pursued, not only on its own merits but as a way of dramatizing the need for a more realistic level of prices in the Community, which would gradually reduce the surpluses. Meanwhile more thought should be given to ways of selling off the surplus butter within the Community. There are already schemes for selling reduced price butter over Christmas, and to institutions like schools, hospitals and old people's homes. More of this should be done even if it is expensive. If the Community is to spend large sums of money disposing of its surpluses, at least the benefits should go to its own people rather than the Kremlin.

at the Royal Prerogative and the Civil Service Order in Council, 1978, under which civil servants are recruited at present, *are insufficient in practice to prevent ministers by-passing the Civil Service Commission, which has been the guarantor of a Civil service free from political patronage since the late nineteenth century.*

A Civil Service Act ensuring that a career official's prospects would not suffer if his advice to ministers was disclosed under freedom of information act would help reassure Whitehall that open government need not increase a slippery slope back to the jobbery of the early nineteenth century. Estacade, the Civil Service bible of "dos and don'ts", would also need to be amended. At present, civil servants, if they obey the rules, must confuse themselves in public to repeating what has already been disclosed by ministers.

The report of Mr Linstead and his colleagues should be published as soon as possible as a contribution to the debate on open government and a timely reminder to ministers that the issue is not dead in Whitehall, however unfavourably it may be received inside the Cabinet room.

symptomatic of a profound division
educational thought. In the
simplest terms, the division is
between those who regard the pur-
pose of children's existence as the
support and well-being of schools
and those on the other hand who
regard the purpose of schools as
the means to serve the differing needs
of children. The Bishop of Man-
chester (March 13) evidently
belongs to the first group.
ours faithfully.

MICHAEL ADAMS,
Inglethorpe Street, SW6.
arch 15.

A child's rights
from Miss Dinah May
r, It is heartbreaking that the
warding of child custody almost
clusively to mothers can make
divorced fathers strangers to their
children (article, March 13), but the
assing of those children back and
forth between parents in a game of
pass the parcel "surely cannot be
the best solution."

Children can usually settle down
a new way of life as long as it
olds the promise of stability and
curity, but where will they find it
without a permanent home or
continuity of care?

Yours faithfully,
INAAH MAY,
Palace Road,
East Molesey,
Surrey.

From Professor F. T. Farmer
Sir, Thousands of ordinary people must be appalled at the increasing talk of nuclear war—not just war in the abstract or war at a distance but nuclear war in our own country. Do we really believe this to be a credible, acceptable solution to any political problem?
It has been seen or read of the effects of a single atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945 will realise that thermonuclear weapons equivalent to perhaps a thousand Hiroshimas will cause indescribable damage to this country. The result will be an unimagined death and destruction which it will reach many generations, if ever, to recover. Yet every day we seem to move nearer to the brink.
Our purpose is laudable. It is to defend those values of civilization we believe in and treasure, and this we must do. But does anyone really believe that the use of nuclear weapons is a war which obliterates all our big cities, causes indescribable suffering and undermines the whole structure of life in this country is unlikely to leave any vestige of our civilization and may even lead to some form of dictatorship.
Nor does the important question ever seem to be asked, what are we doing to "them", the men, women and children over there, the hundreds of thousands who may die as a result of our missiles?
Is it not time we stood back and looked at the position afresh before

It is too late? War has indeed become bankrupt, obsolete. It is now a political problem: h is a way that has broken down, is discredited and useless, as was so clearly indicated by the late Lord Mountbatten. It seems to me that there is only one belief in, and that that is resisting non-violently any power that would seek to destroy or conquer us. However cruel and aggressive our enemies, our duty is not to kill them but to convert them, and this can only be done by the use of our own principles than by denying them. There are precedents to guide us: the heroic stand of the Norwegians against the Nazis in World War II is an example. A conqueror can be resisted non-violently, and he will either refuse either to collaborate or to give in. Ten million people in this country with a resolute determination to resist an invader whatever the cost could take away this power and be victorious. This

There would of course be great suffering and sacrifices (though small compared with those of nuclear war), and we will need the courage of ten thousand Sakharovs and more. But for our children's sake, let us not even think of doing it. There is no other way.

One thing must be remembered. While we have nuclear weapons on our soil we will be a target for nuclear attack. Without these, whatever else may happen, there will be a nuclear war. We must deal with nuclear weapons if only because we have a useless devastated land to take over. Our first step must be to get rid of these, coupled with a vigorous nationwide plan of non-violent civilian defence.

Can we start, at this tremendous hour,
rise to the need and show the world
a way forward in its desperate
plight?
Yours truly,
F. T. FARMER,
81 Grosvenor Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
March 12.

From Mr Michael Ambrose
Sir, Mr Bernard Levin (March 4)
seems to be playing the game of
selective quotations in his article
of "The gold... the basest metal
of all".
He correctly quotes a Novosti
booklet saying "The view popular
in the West that 'sport is outside
politics' is not supported in the
USSR. This view is untenable in our
country".
But he avoids quoting the rest of
the sentence, which says this is "be-
cause sport is inseparable from the
Soviet people view sport as an
instrument of peace, as an important
means of improving mutual relations
between people, for developing
friendly relations between countries and
promoting mutual understanding".
This is surely a policy which
any reasonable man would support.

MICHAEL AMBROSE
Novosti Press Agency,
B Rosary Gardens, SW7.

Sales from St Paul's

From the Chairman of the Georgian Group

Sir: All who care about churches and cathedrals will be disturbed by the recent Gibbons report (March 10) of the sales from St Paul's Cathedral of the Girdling Gibbons ceiling among other historic material. Heretofore it appears to be one of artistic indifference and commercial ineptitude on the part of the Dean and Chapter. Is it not cynicism or effrontery to suggest that the aim of these activities was "to raise the price of the poppines" as such as setting up a treasury to display "popinose plate"? How can a Cathedral so neglectful of the work of a great English craftsman like Gibbons expect churches to lend their treasures with any confidence?

Rut on this matter of the Gibbons ceiling it is worth asking what, when a huge sum (variously estimated at between £250,000 and £500,000) was spent recently on the organ and the

especially when it had been ordered by the architect responsible for moving the screen in the nineteenth century? Ought they not now to buy it back?

If cathedral authorities cannot show a better record of stewardship than this, they will lose the confidence of the public on whose support (as we are so often reminded) they greatly depend.

Yours faithfully,
L. O. CHANCE,
Chairman,
The Georgian Group,
11 Chester Street, SW1.

Sir, Your report (March 13) that a number of MPs and others protested on the afternoon of the day before about a *Nationalwide* programme, does not go far enough. I am concerned with the burning of second homes in Wales. They had not seen the programme, which had not even gone out on the air at the time in question. They protested, it would appear, on the strength of shock-horror headlines and many controversial articles in the newspapers. I am concerned with accuracy on the front page of a popular daily paper. Am I alone in thinking that critics should first see what they criticize?

And what is reality is the fuss about? Are some people suggesting that the BBC alone should be barred from dealing with the subject of public concern in which 27 houses have been burned in Wales? During the past two months there have been innumerable mentions of this subject in the press and, of course, on television and radio.

It is interesting to suggest that while reports of happenings are legitimate, any attempt to understand why these things take place is not legitimate? Since I and many others have long suggested that this would be a welcome more analytical and get rid of its so-called "bias against understanding" this is certainly not a point of view with which I could agree.

It is a sad thing, which we know to exist, that somehow or other putting people on television gives them a special importance

London medical schools
From Professor H. A. B. Simons
Sir, The problem of unit costs of students in London medical schools has been raised by Sir Richard Way. *Principal of King's College, who* (Treport, March 11) quotes the *Flowers Report* as giving annual costs of £1,767 per student at King's, and elsewhere ranging from £3,751 to £5,812.

It may not be appreciated that at this medical school, where the annual cost per student for 1979-80 is £5,757, 38 per cent of this (or £2,180) is the charge made by the DESS for management, maintenance and servicing of the accommodation built by University Grants Committee funds which the school occupies in the hospital complex.

It is noticeable that the other two high unit costs, £5,812 at St George's and £5,274 at Charing Cross, both of which are to be extended under Flowers, are at similar sites where UGC accommodation is integral with large, modern and expensively run hospitals.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. B. SIMONS,
Royal Free Hospital School of
Medicine,
Pond Street, NW3.
March 13.

From Dr Denis Dooley
Sir, With reference to the recent
correspondence in your paper on
the Flowers Committee and the
recent article by Dr Tony Smith

'Gone for a soldier'

From Mr Ivan Geffin.
Sir, I am sorry that so distinguished a soldier as Field Marshal Lord Harding (March 12) should so conspicuously have missed the point of this television programme. All the qualities that he mentions—courage and endurance, sacrifice, good comradeship and good-humoured forbearance—were very clearly brought out in the programme. What the programme also brought out, and surely with justification, was that these qualities can be found in and out of all armies and that none of us is innocent of the sufferings inflicted on, and by,

It was predictable that some politicians should resent any programme which, reminding us of past deception, might call current policies into question. It is Lord Harding, and not the BBC, who directs his indignation at the wrong target.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN GEFFEN,
Greybury House,
Bridge Street,
Walsall, West Midlands.

From Brigadier Sir John Smyth, VC
Sir, I would like to support most
strongly Lord Harding's letter.

From Sir Geoffrey Keynes
Sir, May I be allowed to speak in support of the pleas made by Bernard Levin (March 6) and Lord Hunt (March 10) that no attempt be made to recover the body of George Ashrover Everest? I was his follower and companion in rock climbing for three seasons, 1907-09, in Snowdonia and Lakeland, always led, never leading. He was completely fearless and as competent as any human being could be, combining this with calm judgment. His well-known answer, "Because it's there", to the question "Why do you want to climb Everest?", suggests that he had a fixation on the subject.

The first expedition was called a "reconnaissance"; the second was a failure and Mallory regarded himself as partly responsible for the deaths of seven Sherpas. The third in 1924 was to be the final attempt. He was then a married man with three children and he knew that he

From the Editor of Encounter
Sir, In his article, "Did Titoism mean the death of Stalinism?" (March 10), Eric Heffer argues that it did, and he offers "all honour to Tito and his friends, Djlmas among them" for their contributions "towards a democratic non-Stalinist communism". Indeed he quotes what Djlmas recently said in the interview with George Urban which appeared in the December *Encounter*: "Moscow's hegemony over what is left of the world communist movement is dead".
Unfortunately what is not dead is

Sir, As musicians and sponsors of
 musical activities we wish to draw
 your attention to a grave prob-
 lem that faces every professional
 choir and orchestra in Britain.
 In the past many musicians have
 always been treated as "self-
 employed". In each concern of
 management we may employ
 different musicians with whom it
 has no contract of service. The
 management engages a conductor
 whose professional expertise is in
 the coordination of the musician's
 individual skills and talents. Every-
 one who is engaged under the Inland
 Revenue, continues to treat mus-
 icians as "self-employed".
 However the Department of
 Health of Social Security has now
 ruled that musicians, when playing
 in an orchestra, are "employed".
 This decision, which arises from
 the interpretation of the Social
 Security Act of 1975, is still being
 fought in the courts, but if upheld
 may well cost each management
 many thousands of pounds. Most of
 the managements concerned are
 religious charities, few of which
 could cope with this further burden,
 and many would be forced into
 bankruptcy.
 We cannot believe this was the
 intention either of the Labour Gov-
 ernment when passing the Act, or
 of the present Conservative Govern-
 ment in upholding the legislation.
 Yours faithfully,
 JOHN ELIOT GARDINER,
 YEHUDI MENUHIN,
 LENNOX BERKELEY,
 E. P. CHAPPELL,
 FRANCIS SANDILANDS,
 R. LEIGH-Pemberton,
 1 Surrey Street, WC2.
 March 11.

Changes in planning law

The Local Government Planning and Land Bill promises only routine amendments to planning law. It is outrageous to suggest that the control procedures "would have grave consequences".

Common sense suggests a reduction in the areas of duplication in the administration of town and country planning. Unless it is entrenched that district planning authorities are perverse or incompetent (which manifestly they are not), to insist on administration with development control will be an obvious improvement for the developer, those affected by proposed development, the ratepayer and Mr Switzer.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GAY.

11 Dane John.
Canterbury,
Kent.

Sir, While the proposed rail Channel tunnel may do all you claim (March 7) it would for passenger transport, freight forwarders will find it difficult to reconcile your view with theirs on the matter of convenience to them. It is also difficult to justify the opinion that there will be any recognizable road relief since traffic would still be delivered to and collected from rural areas.

Double handling will increase costs and delay movement. Freight transported throughout by road is in the custody of the owner or an identifiable driver. It is therefore

potentially more secure.

The 57 minute service now offered by European Ferries between Dover and Calais added to road transport's other advantages will ensure that no one company, its servants and their trade unions will control Britain's export import, traffic flows.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN SHERRIFF,
Dorset House,
Stamford Street, SE1.

knives gone?"—all washed down
the river of time and now "far, far
away", like those flowers that
German girl used to sing about.
Few smokers remain, save their
"beards" from black, spiky pug.
Fewer and fewer horses hammer
along the hard and polished high
roads and call for stones to be
removed from their tender hooves.
The old man is no more and
the ubiquitous and beastly biro has
displaced the homely pencil. More-
over the urge to whittle sticks or
carve hearts on trees, lies stillborn
in breasts brought up in concrete
jungles. All, all are gone.
And I have a penknife—say
two! I don't mean the old one that
has developed a nasty and dangerous
weakness in the hinge: but a slim,
spanning new, inflationary one:
vastly expensive and a present from
my son. Needless to say it is far too
precious to be carried in the pocket
and the old one still does duty in
the garden and on strings and things. . .
Yours faithfully,
NORMAN FOSTER,
Bexborough,
Hearth End.
Farnham, Surrey.

(March 7) Mr Gee thinks we may be surprised and delighted to learn that in his large Government department there was no red tape to be found when it was actually wanted. At the most, we are not surprised.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HOSKING,
The Manor House,
Trewyn,
Monmouthshire.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

Stock markets

FT Index 439.9, down 7.1
FT 100s 64.22, up 0.12

Sterling

62.2145, down 7.5pts
Index 72.3, up 0.1

Dollar

Index 88.3

Gold

\$530, down \$25.5

Money

3-mth sterling 17.4-17.5
3-mth Euro 19.1-19.2
6-mth Euro 18.4-18.5

IN BRIEF

Mr Maxwell Joseph times likely successor

Maxwell Joseph, aged 70, founder and chairman of the food, and gambling group, has been named as the likely successor to Mr Stanley Grinstead as chairman of the company. Mr Joseph, who has been in the company for about five years, is a former chairman of the group and a director of the company. He is also a director of the company's subsidiary, the food and gambling group. Mr Joseph is a former chairman of the company and a director of the company's subsidiary, the food and gambling group. He is also a director of the company's subsidiary, the food and gambling group.

ities' poor month

Building societies had another disappointing month in February, with the Association of Building Societies reporting a 12.8 per cent fall in new mortgages to £1,490m, down from £1,690m in January. The fall was due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the interest rate and a fall in the number of applications.

steel aid

Proposals for extra EEC aid to steel reorganisation are being considered by the British Steel Corporation. The proposals are being considered by the British Steel Corporation, which is a member of the EEC. The proposals are being considered by the British Steel Corporation, which is a member of the EEC.

duction soars

Iranian steel production rose 2,650,000 tons in February, the highest monthly increase since January. The increase was due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the interest rate and a fall in the number of applications.

price obstacle

Obstacles on the price of Iranian oil supplied to the Soviet Union have been broken down when a delegation could not reach an agreement on the price. The delegation was led by Mr. Ali Akbar, who is a member of the Iranian oil ministry.

plants close

Motor Co. in Detroit temporarily closed three car plants next week in order to keep inventories in line with falling sales. The closure is expected to last for a few days.

in trucks order

Levi's, the specialist vehicle manufacturer, has ordered 40 trucks from Leyland Trucks. The trucks are expected to be delivered in the next few months.

er days lost

483,000 working days lost through strikes in Germany during 1979, a record for the country. The strikes were caused by a combination of factors, including a rise in the interest rate and a fall in the number of applications.

Top two banks raise prime lending rates to record 18.5 pc

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 14

Bank of America and Citicorp, the two largest banks in the United States, today raised their prime lending rates to a record 18.5 per cent. The rate they charge their most creditworthy customers is increased from 17 1/2 per cent to 18 1/2 per cent.

Further prime rate increases are expected on Wall Street, where speculation is widespread that a new round of credit tightening is imminent. Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is due to hold a press conference tomorrow.

The pace at which the prime rate has surged ahead has been dramatic. The new 18 1/2 per cent rate is up from 15 per cent at the start of this year and 13 per cent a year ago.

Several banks moved only yesterday to raise their rates. Citicorp, for example, raised its prime rate to 18 1/2 per cent, but by late today the 18 1/2 per cent level had been accepted by large numbers of banks across the nation.

The rate increases were announced against a disturbing background of economic news. The economy appears to be still resisting a distinct move towards a slump, which the authorities clearly desire to cool.

The rate increases were announced against a disturbing background of economic news. The economy appears to be still resisting a distinct move towards a slump, which the authorities clearly desire to cool.

Extra 3pc squeeze on spending planned

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government appears to be planning a further squeeze of about 3 per cent on public spending volume next year through the application of tight cash limits.

Mr John Biffen, chief secretary to the Treasury, announced yesterday that cash limits for current spending of central government would allow for cost increases of only 14 per cent up to 1980-81.

Prices are expected to rise by about 17 per cent, giving a squeeze of 3 per cent in volume terms. This would come on top of any cuts in particular spending programmes announced in the Government's White Paper on spending, to be published on Budget day.

Allowance for cost increases for capital spending are higher, but these are based on the last published government forecasts for inflation, as is the 14 per cent for current spending.

Mr Biffen said the Government is able to announce a saving in the Budget of as much as £1,000m in government spending purely because of tighter cash limits.

If the new official inflation forecast is as high as 17 per cent then the cash limits would

after an 0.3 per cent gain in January.

But it is fears of still higher inflation that now seem so deeply and broadly entrenched that bankers suggest that these fears are stimulating corporations to borrow large sums, despite the high interest rates.

The strong credit demand, combined with the tighter recent stance by the Fed is resulting in the sharp increases in interest rates.

Mr Barry Bosworth, who only a few months ago resigned as director of the White House wage and price council, told a congressional committee today that consumer prices might rise in coming months at annual rates of more than 20 per cent.

He said that "without a change in policy (by the government), inflation would be a minimum of 10 per cent for years to come with the potential that further market disruptions could drive it toward 20 per cent."

Mr Bosworth called for wage and price controls and for a still more restrictive credit policy. He gave a warning that people should not be deluded by the belief that inflation would be brought under control simply by balancing the federal budget.

Some dealers on the New York Stock Exchange suggest that the market has probably discounted already most of the budget cuts and credit tightening moves. As well as higher interest rates and a more positive tone, perhaps even a rally might emerge next week.

Furness agrees to Tung takeover

By Ronald Pullen

Furness Withy now looks set to become part of Mr C. Y. Tung's Hongkong-based shipping empire in a deal which values one of the oldest names in British shipping at £113m.

Last night the Furness board announced that it had agreed to an improved offer from Orient Overseas Containers, the only publicly quoted company in the Tung group. The new offer of 42p a share cash compares with the original 36p a share terms at which the bid was first made almost a month ago, and upon which Furness advised shareholders to take no action.

The bid still has to run the gauntlet of the Monopolies Commission, which has already

said that a takeover of Furness by a foreign-owned concern was not in the public interest.

Mr Tung's son, who has been handling the negotiations in this country, has already discussed the bid with the Office of Fair Trading.

The other uncertainty remains the position of Mr Frank Naby, whose attempts to take over Furness were spooked by the Monopolies Commission. Having been ordered to reduce his holding in Furness, Mr Naby has been buying further shares in the company since the Tung approach was made and through Dolphin Investments, his company, and the associated Helix Investments, he now controls 14 per cent of the shares.

Mr Brian Shaw, chairman of Furness, said last night that

"the combination of a fair price and the prospects of a square deal for staff which gave them job security and further opportunities" had convinced the board that the bid should be accepted.

OOC stressed that it intended to work together with Furness Withy to continue to develop it as a major British group. To head off criticisms that control of a British shipping group was passing abroad, OOC said: "Furness will continue to be managed in Britain as a separate enterprise under its own name and with its vessels sailing under the British flag and manned by British crew."

OOC already owns 5.31 per cent of the Furness shares and the directors are putting their 0.16 per cent holding behind

the offer. A further 20 per cent or so of the shares are controlled by merchant bankers Rea Brothers both directly and through investment trusts under its management, and as advisers to Furness it is expected that they will back the bid.

The offer, which is being made through Kenwake, a wholly owned subsidiary of OOC, contains an alternative to the cash in the form of 12 per cent guaranteed unsecured loan notes and is conditional of the bid not being referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The two shipping groups appear to have fairly complementary activities and the chief interest of Mr Tung seems to lie in Furness' South American lines, its offshore activities and Manchester Liners.

Gulf fails to block plan for Lonrho share issue

By Bryan Appleyard and Michael Clark

Lonrho's board, yesterday, failed to block an attempt by Gulf Fisheries to raise single shareholders to prevent the creation of 40 million new shares, a 16 per cent increase in the current authorised capital.

It also defeated a move to stop the company buying out the remaining 50 per cent of a Rhodesian copper mine, a stake which is personally controlled by Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive.

Both battles turned out early in the proceedings to be foregone conclusions. Lord Duncan-Sandys, the chairman, told the packed meeting of 1,000 of Lonrho's 61,000 shareholders that 9,700 postal proxy cards representing 77 million shares had already voted in favour of the increase in capital and only 200 proxies, representing 226,000 shares, had voted against.

It was already known that the trustees connected with Sir Hugh Fraser with 2.8 million shares and Save and Prosper with 3



Lonrho directors Lord Duncan-Sandys (left), Mr Edward Du Cann, Sir George Bolton and Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland at the annual meeting yesterday.

million shares would support the board.

Mr Edward Du Cann, another director, revealed that proxies in favour of giving the board discretion to buy out the rest of the Nyasacopper mine totalled 47 million shares compared with 1 million against.

But the very scale of the turnout—the usual figure is between 500 and 600—indicated the seriousness of the challenges. For at the back of the minds of the Lonrho faithful as they trooped to the microphones in the Great Hall of London's Grosvenor House hotel last night were the figures of Mr Graham Lacey, Shaikh Nasser Sabah al

Ahmed and Mr Daniel K. Ludwig, reputedly the richest man in the world and holder of 5 million Lonrho shares to which Mr Rowland controls the voting rights.

Shaikh Nasser, head of Gulf Fisheries and a member of the ruling family of Kuwait, is known to be in negotiation with Mr Lacey over the Gulf stake. At first it seemed the evangelical, entrepreneurial Mr Lacey was simply interested in paying £200m for the Kuwaiti stake, then it seemed a bid for the whole of Lonrho was on the cards.

Mr Ludwig entered the Lonrho picture as a result of a

50-50 deal over Princess Properties International, a Bermudan company. Lonrho paid £36.2m cash and 5 million shares for the stake. At the meeting the chairman welcomed the "stimulating partnership" with Mr Ludwig.

We are, in fact, looking jointly at possible projects in Central and South America, in which the technical experience we have acquired in other parts of the world could prove most useful," he said.

But Lord Sandys's opening address concentrated on the new found strength of Lonrho.

Continued on page 20, col 6

Industry unscathed by steel strike

By Richard Allen

Newman Industries has dismissed Mr Alan Bartlett, its chairman, after last month's High Court ruling that he and Mr John Laughton, the former vice chairman, should pay damages for conspiracy.

The move comes ahead of court hearings expected to start on Monday to determine the full extent of damages as a result of Mr Justice Vinelott's ruling that Newman paid at least £450,000 too much for a package of assets and liabilities of Newman House Hotel last night.

Mr Bartlett said last night he intended to appeal against the High Court decision in favour of an action brought by Newman minority shareholder, Prudential Assurance. Fresh evidence will be produced, he said.

Mr Bartlett said he was

Newman chief to fight dismissal

By Richard Allen

Newman Industries has dismissed Mr Alan Bartlett, its chairman, after last month's High Court ruling that he and Mr John Laughton, the former vice chairman, should pay damages for conspiracy.

The move comes ahead of court hearings expected to start on Monday to determine the full extent of damages as a result of Mr Justice Vinelott's ruling that Newman paid at least £450,000 too much for a package of assets and liabilities of Newman House Hotel last night.

Mr Bartlett said last night he intended to appeal against the High Court decision in favour of an action brought by Newman minority shareholder, Prudential Assurance. Fresh evidence will be produced, he said.

Mr Bartlett said he was

deeply shocked at the ending of his service contract with the group and of his directorship of Newman and its subsidiaries.

"I shall contest the dismissal and will circulate shareholders whom I have served faithfully and well."

The (other) directors have continually approved the TPG transaction in public and in private. They know the transaction greatly benefited all Newman shareholders and employees.

"They know the horrendous cost of the Prudential action, which has brought Newman to its knees."

The board has responded to the pressure of a powerful minority without reference to the majority shareholders, employees and management.

In his summing up last month Mr Justice Vinelott said Mr Bartlett and Mr Newman had led the Newman board by

"trickery and deceit" in paying an "arbitrary and unreal" price of £525,000 for a package of assets and liabilities from TPG.

TPG, which had a 25.6 per cent holding in Newman, was itself 35 per cent owned by Strongpoint, a company in turn wholly owned by Mr Bartlett and Mr Laughton.

The judge described a circular explaining the deal as "tricky and misleading" and said that a shareholder reading it would have been quite unable to form any assessment of the deal's merits.

He found that Prudential Assurance and other shareholders had suffered damage as a result of the conspiracy.

As well as meeting next week to establish a basis for damages, the parties will have to deal with the question of costs, which have been estimated to be at least £750,000.

Britain presses for more Japanese technology

By Our Industrial Editor

Britain is pressing for more Japanese technology to be transferred to Britain by government encouragement for companies to acquire the latest Japanese technology.

Lord Trenchard, Minister of State for Industry, said last night that the Government was not "too proud" to encourage the transfer to Britain of up-to-date Japanese technology.

The Government's strong desire to encourage closer co-operation between industries of the two countries similar to the agreement reached between B.I. and Honda, emerged at a press conference at the end of a 10-day visit by a high level Japanese team of bankers and government officials.

Competition to attract Japanese investment to Europe is keen, particularly between

Britain and the Irish Republic. Britain has more than 20 Japanese companies—the highest number in Europe—operating in the United Kingdom employing about 6,000 workers. Over the last five years the Japanese presence in Britain has grown faster than anywhere else in western Europe.

The Government is aware that a number of Japanese companies are looking for bases in Britain.

The leader of the mission, Mr Toshikazu Hashimoto, an adviser to Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said the team had been impressed by the standard of labour relations at the plants they had visited and also by the infrastructure developments, the building of industrial sites and communication and educational facilities.

More was accounted for by trade in diamonds, which is notoriously volatile. The figures suggest that shipments in January totalled £76m. Imports were also much increased from £29m in January 1979 to £53m this year.

Even allowing for inflation, the increase is large. Trade officials are now waiting to see if the trend will continue throughout this year, or whether the January totals represent a short burst of activity followed by a scaling down of trading activity.

John Huxley

Shell expected to take up NEB stake in titanium plant

By John Huxley

Shell is expected to announce next week that it is to participate with Rolls-Royce and ICI in a £30m project to build a titanium plant at Shotton, north Wales.

It will do so through its Billiton companies, whose worldwide metal interests support sales of more than £500m a year. Preliminary talks have been held with the National Enterprise Board, which yesterday announced it was relinquishing its interest.

Previously the NEB had held a 60 per cent interest in Desidite Titanium, with the remaining equity shared by Rolls-Royce and ICI.

Rolls-Royce will now acquire the NEB holding on terms to be negotiated, and follow up opportunities for further private sector participation.

In a parliamentary answer MPs were told that because it was intended to transfer the shares of Rolls-Royce to the NEB, it would be inappropriate for the board to continue to have responsibility for Desidite Titanium.

It is understood that further discussions involving the new third partner will be held before the Billiton shareholding is finalised.

The Shotton plant went to Shotton where 6,500 jobs at a nearby British Steel works will be lost this year, after the NEB had looked at sites in the north-east and at Shotton. It will produce about 280 jobs. Production is expected to begin at the end of 1981.

Previously, they have been in no doubt. Margarine has been fit only for cooking. For spreading, butter—much of it backed from the famous European Community butter mountain—is used almost exclusively.

Soon housewives will be able to try soft margarine, which comes in tubs, for the first time. Johnson and Co (London) announced yesterday that it had won a £3m contract to supply a processing line for soft margarine to the Soviet Union.

A factory to be built on the outskirts of Moscow will produce a minimum of 1.5 million

containers of margarine a week. Johnson, a member of the £1,750m Axel Johnson group of Sweden, will also be responsible for making the tubs in association with John Waddington of Leeds.

Mr Fred De Saules, Johnson's deputy director of operations, explained that the company had supplied the Soviet Union with processing lines for "hard" margarine, which comes wrapped in paper, for 18 years.

It was expected that the soft margarine, something like Flora in the United Kingdom, will push butter gradually. As in the West, there were attractions from the health angle. Soft margarine was lower in calories.

The first soft margarine will come off the production line in

August, 1980. Before then Russian personnel will visit the United Kingdom to be trained in its production—and no doubt its consumption.

Mr De Saules said that the decision of the Russians to bring soft margarine on stream was not related directly to fears of the butter mountain disappearing. In fact Community exports of butter were expected to be resumed soon despite strong opposition from Britain's Conservative Euro-MPs.

Despite continuing political debate on further sanctions against the Soviet Union and government pressure on athletes to withdraw from the Moscow Olympics, there is little indication that trade has been adversely affected.

Indeed, bilateral trade has

grown substantially according to early returns for 1980. They show that in January, Britain imported goods worth £109.4m from the Soviet Union against only £56m in the same month in 1979.

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Even allowing for inflation, the increase is large. Trade officials are now waiting to see if the trend will continue throughout this year, or whether the January totals represent a short burst of activity followed by a scaling down of trading activity.

John Huxley

Midland's profits leap by 36pc to £315.5m

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank, the third of the big clearers to report on its 1979 figures, yesterday announced a 36 per cent rise in profits to £315.5m and a 21.6 per cent increase in dividend. But it has followed the line set by National Westminster and Lloyds and adjusted its figures for inflation to show a profit rise of only £8m to £183m.

The banks are attempting to ward off criticisms of their windfall profits and are restating their figures under current cost accounting procedures proposed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In Midland's case this shows that after tax, losses on the sale of its shares in Standard and Chartered dividend payments there would have been an actual loss of £8m.

Midland's figures compare with a 49 per cent rise achieved by Lloyds and a 44 per cent increase reported by National Westminster. Lord Armstrong, Midland's chairman, explained that this was because of the sale of the Bland Payne insurance business which in 1978 had contributed £25m to profits.

Most of the profits growth last year came from domestic operations, such as the 70 per cent, while international earnings, including some non-banking activities, rose by 15 per cent.

High interest rates traditionally help banking profits because the margin between what they pay to depositors and what they charge customers widens.

On the international level, Midland seems to have been aggressive in seeking deposits and has done significantly better than Lloyds. Last year total deposits amounted to £18,000m of which a third was in currencies other than sterling.

Shareholders' funds grew last year from £58.7m to £121.9m, partly due to a £136m property revaluation of freehold and long leasehold buildings.

Over the past 12 months Midland has been building up cash resources for a major foreign acquisition. It is generally believed that the bank has its eye on possible targets in the United States but there are some fears now that Congress may impose a moratorium on foreign takeovers.

Yesterday Mr Malcolm Wilcox, a director and chief general manager, said that "our information is that there will not be a ban on foreign investment". He stated that Midland was not having talks with anyone but "we are underinvested in the United States and are looking for a suitable investment to make one or more investments."

The United States apart, Midland has been making heavy inroads in France, where last year it acquired a wholesale bank.

The Midland expects interest rates to fall this year. Mr Wilcox estimated that by the end of the year the base rate could be down from the present 17 per cent to 12 per cent.

If this is the case, clearing banks are hardly likely to report the same level of profits rises next time.

PRICE CHANGES

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THE POUND

Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England
Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England
Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England
Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England	Bank of England

British company spreads the word about virtues of soft margarine Russians get a chance to tell the difference

Thanks to British technology it will soon be more difficult for Russian housewives to tell the difference between butter and margarine spread on their bread.

Previously, they have been in no doubt. Margarine has been fit only for cooking. For spreading, butter—much of it backed from the famous European Community butter mountain—is used almost exclusively.

Soon housewives will be able to try soft margarine, which comes in tubs, for the first time. Johnson and Co (London) announced yesterday that it had won a £3m contract to supply a processing line for soft margarine to the Soviet Union.

A factory to be built on the outskirts of Moscow will produce a minimum of 1.5 million

containers of margarine a week. Johnson, a member of the £1,750m Axel Johnson group of Sweden, will also be responsible for making the tubs in association with John Waddington of Leeds.

Mr Fred De Saules, Johnson's deputy director of operations, explained that the company had supplied the Soviet Union with processing lines for "hard" margarine, which comes wrapped in paper, for 18 years.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Most motor insurance certificates are kept readily available; after all a policeman can ask to see one at any time. Motor insurance policies, on the other hand, tend to be tucked away in a safe place and are seldom read.

As a result, it is the certificate and not the policy that is more often consulted if there is any doubt about the insurance. Increasingly, this can cause difficulties.

Except where insurance cover applies only when named people are driving, a certificate says that the cover required by law (that is, liability for personal injury to other road users) applies when "any" licensed driver is at the wheel. However, more and more insurers are issuing policies saying that there will be no cover if anybody under the age of 21 (and the limit is 25 in at least one case) is at the wheel.

And it is the policy which matters so far as an insured motorist is concerned.

On such an important point it would be helpful if the Road Traffic Act could be amended so that, when insurers exclude drivers under a certain age (so that a more competitive premium may be quoted), mention of the exclusion is made on the certificate.

That would not alter the rights of an injured party—who would still be able to claim compensation. It would simply act as a reminder to the motorist that he had agreed that nobody under that age would drive and that he is not protected if the car should be driven by such a person. As it is, from an insured motorist's point of view, a certificate of insurance can be misleading, to say the least.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH

ANOTHER LATE NIGHT FILING IN ALL THIS GOVERNMENT BUMF...



FORMS FOR THIS AND THAT, DIRECTIVES TO DO AND DON'T



HERE'S ANOTHER PAMPHLET FULL OF VERBAL DIARRHOEA...



THE GOVERNMENT CERT OF WARNING: FORMS FILING TO SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR...



Pre-Budget taxation

Reassessing your pension needs

With the approach of April 5, it is probably the most convenient time to consider whether to make an investment in a personal pension plan. If you are an employee already in a pension scheme, you should be deciding whether to make a personal contribution into your employer's pension scheme in the current tax year.

When contemplating the possible investment of money in a pension, a man in his mid-thirties may reasonably say that he is too young. As he cannot lay his hands on the funds until he retires, it is effectively dead money at a time when he could need it most. Furthermore, he can have no certainty that the hard earned pound invested today will retain its real value in the form of a pension at 60 or 65.

But even a young man should bear in mind that, generally speaking, a pension fund is likely to be a more effective medium for secure and high growth than most other investments.

This is almost entirely because of certain valuable tax privileges given to inland Revenue approved pension schemes. In the first place, the contributions are wholly allowed against income tax. In other words, if you invest £100 of your gross earnings the

actual cost ranges from £70 for a basic rate taxpayer, down to as little as £40 for the highest rate taxpayer at 60 per cent. In other words, you obtain a tax subsidy for investing in your own retirement.

In the second place, the pension fund itself, while in the hands of the trustees or insurance company, is not subject to United Kingdom income tax, capital gains tax or investment income surcharge. So, although inflation linking is not guaranteed, at least the pension fund investment has a very important head start over an ordinary fund.

Finally, on retirement the pensioner can usually obtain at least part of the value of his pension as a tax-free lump sum. The remainder is provided as an income which can last for the rest of the pensioner's own (and often spouse's) life. Of course, the income under the pension scheme is taxable. But unlike other savings forms, the income is regarded as earned and so is free from the investment income surcharge.

Your employment status and whether you are already in a pension scheme determine what level of pension investment can be available to you. The personal pension plan for the self-employed, and the employee

who does not have an employer-sponsored plan, can use a contract approved under section 225 of the Taxes Act 1970.

Briefly, the rules are that in any tax year you can invest up to 15 per cent of your net earnings (that is earnings after business expenses and capital allowances) and the investment is an allowable deduction against your earned income for that year. There has been an overall ceiling of £3,000 a year for the last three years, unless you were born in 1915 or earlier, in which case there are higher limits in the amount of allowable premiums. Normally, the investment into a personal pension plan is allowed against your tax liability in the year in which you pay the premium. However, it is often possible to back-date the tax relief to a previous year. This can be particularly rewarding if, in past years, you have been subject to high rates of tax.

You must, however, fulfil two main conditions for back-dating to a particular previous year. In the first place, you must not have used up your full allowance of 15 per cent of earnings. Secondly, you must make the investment and inform the Inland Revenue of your decision to back-date within six months of the day on which your tax as-

essment for the year in question became final and conclusive. Many people who pay tax under PAYE do not receive tax assessments in this way and may therefore be in a position to be able to back-date as far as 1973-74.

If you are an employee and you are already in a pension scheme operated by your employer, then you cannot use the earnings from that employment to qualify for a personal pension contribution.

However, many people have second jobs or other sources of earnings from which they may be able to make such a contribution. Although the limit on investment in any one year is still 15 per cent of the relevant earnings, in this case there is a further overriding limit of £3,000 less 15 per cent of pensionable earnings. For example, if the earnings from your main pensionable employment are £18,000, then the overall limit for personal pension contributions is £3,000, less 15 per cent times £18,000, which equals £300.

Nevertheless, if you are in a pension scheme established by your employer, you may save the opportunity to make personal contributions into that pension scheme in order to boost your final pension bene-

fits. Such investments might purchase benefits which are related to final salary or they could be a payment into a specific with profits policy, unit linked fund or even building society account which could build up an amount to be used to buy a pension annuity on retirement.

Your own personal contributions of up to 15 per cent of earnings are allowed against income tax in the year in which the investments are made. There are no carry-back or carry-forward provisions; so, if you want to make an additional voluntary contribution for 1979-80 you should most certainly do it by April 5.

Of course, before making such a contribution from your own funds you would be wise to ensure that the scheme represents good value for money both on retirement and in the event of your changing employers. If your employer does not have an arrangement for you to make your own contributions into a satisfactory fund, then you should suggest that he establish such a scheme—after all it need cost him nothing.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

When the builder's work fails to meet your standards

I have already paid a firm of builders £800 and owe them a further £600 under their estimate. The greater part of their work is up to standard, but parts are unsatisfactory, particularly the painting, which will cost about £150 to put right, and I have refused to make any further payment until they have done so. They are bombarding me with bills for the balance of their account with interest on the amount outstanding, calculated at the minimum lending rate. Can you advise if they are legally entitled to interest, and if so, what is the correct rate? (AH, Yorkshire).

If the contract for the work they have done is "indivisible", you are, in theory, entitled to withhold further payment until it has been completed to a reasonable standard. However, in practice, it would be unfair to withhold more than £150, if this is sufficient for another builder to remedy the defects. Consequently, if you are sued, you should pay into court immediately the balance of what you owe, less £150, indicating that you have a counter-claim for this sum.

A tradesman cannot insist on interest on his outstanding bill unless he made it clear before he accepted your order, that interest would be charged. That is, it was a term of his contract with you. However, if you are sued judges have a discretion to allow interest on any debt at a commercial rate, backdated to the date on which payment should have been made, and calculated up to the date of judgment, where there was no legal justification for withholding payment.

Is there anything we can do to stop neighbours holding all-night parties?

When we first moved to the area the children thought the music exciting, but the tremendous noise now stops them sleeping and we all have frayed nerves the following morning. Can you suggest a possible remedy? We are prepared to try anything legal. (TE, Fulham).

Where noise from a party amounts to a nuisance it is an offence under section 58 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. Contact the environmental health officer at your local town hall and get his emergency number. There is usually an officer on stand-by duty. He will visit the premises and if he thinks a nuisance exists, he will write out a notice requiring its abatement forthwith. If the occupier or person responsible fails to comply, he can be fined up to £200 in the magistrates' court. The police can call in the health officer as well as visiting the party themselves.

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Eric Brunet, John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving

I have a large, well established Chilli Pine (Monkey Puzzle Tree) on the border of my land. Recently a neighbour has built a garage on his land beneath the over-hanging boughs of my tree. He now tells me I am responsible for any damage caused to his garage by falling tree branches (the tree is a good fifty feet high, a fine specimen under a preservation order). Can you tell me if I am liable for any damage caused? (TAW, Devon).

Not lopping a tree whose branches or roots extend over neighbouring property may constitute a "nuisance". If the owner refuses to trim them, the neighbour is entitled to cut them off at the boundary line. Similarly, roots may be cut off at the border.

Although the tree preservation order prevents the owner pruning it without consent of the local planning department, it does not affect the neighbour's common law right to prune up to the border without such consent. You, as owner, are under a duty to take reasonable care to prevent it from falling on to persons and property adjoining premises. While not bound to call in an arborist to examine the tree, it would put you in the "red" if a branch should subside. In any event, you should take notice of any signs of decay or disease which might indicate there was a danger of a branch falling.

However, if you have its roots to grow and boundary and they cause a nuisance to the foundations of neighbouring buildings, would be in breach of obligation to make repairs. If you do not, you would foot his bill for repairs.

I try to help a blind friend various ways, but she is as independent as a p. Does any building society or insurance company have a scheme for helping the blind? (SAB, tenham).

The Provincial B Society issues two book braille (and also in print), explaining the types of investment available. If you are interested, will issue statements in

At long last I have paid the mortgage on my house and am free to plan insurance where I like. I am sure it should be possible to have a policy on the building society's. Have you any suggestions? (GIV, Bromley).

At present, underwrite Lloyd's are particularly petitive for married couples. A number of schemes in existence including operated by the Horsham brokers Burgoine Alford

I am buying a house a Continent for retirement until then, will be using until then. At this point should prefer to make it sure arrangements in country, rather than in the UK. Who should I approach? (CMC, Cardiff).

A scheme for such policies, underwritten at Lloyd's operated by Price and P. You have the choice of premiums either in sterling or in the local currency. ever you choose, claims paid in the same currency.

Unit trust performance

GENERAL

INCOME

DISCRETIONARY

THE TABLE SHOWS THE VALUE ON MARCH 1 OF £100 INVESTED 12 MONTHS AGO (A), INCOME REINVESTED AND SHOWN AT OFFER PRICES. FIGURES SUPPLIED BY PLANNED SAVINGS, 150-152 Caledonian Road, LONDON N1 9RD.

If you own shares or have ever considered investing, there's one thing you'll have noticed right from the start.

Unless you happen to be a broker, a financial wizard, or just born lucky, your chances of mastering the Stock Market are slim.

Hampton Court Maze would be easier in the dark. But that particular labyrinth doesn't have a habit of changing from one moment to the next.

If only it was this easy to find your way around the City.

The Stock Market does. It's a highly complicated, volatile area. And a risky one at times.

So you have to be careful how you go about it.

The traditional method is one of the best. You simply hand the job over to an expert.

You supply the money; he studies the market and buys the shares on your behalf.

It's a well-trodden path and, by and large, it works. But it does have its pitfalls, nonetheless.

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The Capital Investment Bond.

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I would like details of the Capital Investment Bond and Share Exchange Scheme.

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The Standard Life Capital Investment Bond An element of assurance in an uncertain world.



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Consumer law

Small claims in the county court

king the law into your own hands is now officially encouraged. The Lord Chancellor's Office issues a free booklet *Small Claims in the County Court* as a general guide to the personal conduct of consumer complaints in the courts.

In 1973, the informal arbitration was made a real alternative to the more demanding procedure of a trial and, with the help of the county court, the attitude of the courts, suing and deciding without the help of a solicitor is feasible and on the rise.

Naturally, there are criticisms of the system and at least some of these are justified. But, save the independent Manchester all Claims Court, there is no other general forum for the settlement of consumer disputes. When and how, therefore, should you use the court? The first and fundamental question is whether recourse to the county court is worth it. The conclusion about the rights of the consumer is that, if the claim is not too large, the redress is not too complex, the satisfaction is not too difficult to achieve, the enforcement procedures are not too onerous, and the claimant is not too far from the court, the county court is the best place to go.

The county courts deal only with the civil law. Matters which are within their jurisdiction and which might be suitable for the county court include:

- Claims for damages arising from the sale of goods, provision of services or loans.
- Other claims stemming from contracts for the sale of goods or provision of services, example because of a failure to supply the goods ordered or in respect of bad workmanship.

(c) Claims for wilful damage to property or assault.

(d) Claims for wages due or payable in lieu of notice.

(e) Landlord and tenant disputes, claims for possession of property and for arrears of rent or the return of deposits.

(f) Claims for damages caused by negligence. These most frequently arise from motor accidents and will be substantial enough to involve the insurers, but there may be exceptions when the amount in dispute is less than the excess, or the insured does not wish to risk losing his no-claims bonus.

In the last two categories it is probably always wise, and in the case of any personal injuries resulting from negligence invariably so, to take advice before embarking on the sole conduct of proceedings. Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Legal Advice Scheme are available for this purpose.

The type of claim is one consideration; amount is another. A "small claim" is one which does not exceed £200. If you use a solicitor you would have to pay his costs whether you won or lost, and there is every encouragement to proceed in person; even if you lose you will not be ordered to pay the costs of any solicitor who has been chosen to act for him or her. The normal rule in claims over £200 and up to the maximum county court jurisdiction of £2,000 is that the loser is ordered to pay the other side's solicitor's costs.

Where the claim does not exceed £200 arbitration should replace the normal trial of a defended case if either of the parties so desires. The first forms to be completed by both plaintiff and defendant contain ready printed applications to this effect and should be crossed out only if the party wishes the case to be heard in open court.

Objections to arbitration may

be made by either party at the state known as the pre-trial review, but, unless the registrar finds good reason, or there is any question of fraud, he must make the order for an arbitration and direct how it is to be conducted.

For example, it will usually be in private; the rules of evidence may be modified; "hearsay" may be permitted; there may be directions for written statements to be submitted by the parties. The registrar himself will usually be the arbitrator in a small claim and will conduct the arbitration in his office, not in a court room.

So, although not wholly automatic, an informal arbitration is easily available in small claims and provides a speedier solution. Rights of appeal from an arbitration are much more restricted than from trials in court; this accords with the essence of arbitration.

County courts are listed in the telephone book; the booklet and forms are available in their offices. The fees for entering a claim can be added to the claim and are recoverable from the loser, as can certain costs, for example, that of obtaining the presence of an essential witness at an arbitration. The fee, known as a plaintiff fee, payable when a claim is entered, is calculated on a scale of 10p per £1 claimed; the minimum fee is £2.50.

It has been suggested by the National Consumer Council that the £200 limit should be raised to £500 and that other changes are also necessary to strengthen and extend the simple small claims procedure and to give it a more distinct and separate status within the county court system. Such changes would be welcome.

Halldora Blair



After his county court battle, Mr Carter relaxes in the country.

Mr Carter sticks to his guns

When Mr Peers Carter was our man in Afghanistan the barrel of his shotgun was pointed when it fell off a Land Rover. In the absence of quality gunsmiths in Afghanistan, he waited until he returned to this country in 1973 to have his Greener gun repaired and cleaned by a London gunsmith.

He collected the shotgun early in the following year, not even bothering to look at it then. Later, on January 19, 1974, tempted by some grey squirrels at the bottom of the garden, he took the gun out and saw that the once delicately engraved action was pitted as though it had been attacked by some corrosive substance.

A long drawn-out battle followed over the damage to the gun which culminated in Mr Carter seeking arbitration under the small claims procedure in Westminster County Court. On May 22, 1975 judgment was given against the gunsmiths and by early August the dust finally settled on the case when Mr Carter received a cheque for £74.05 for damages and costs.

Mr Carter, it could be argued, had advantages that others who feel aggrieved or

wronged over some matter, might not be able to fall back upon should they also wish to take the law into their own hands in this fashion.

And certainly it is true that as an ex-ambassador (he has since left the Foreign Office to become an interpreter and foreign consultant) Mr Carter was not intimidated by the law; he had access to informal advice from a friendly solicitor and he knew how to set about acquiring independent evidence from other gunsmiths and metallurgists.

But set against that is the fact that his opponent was a sophisticated firm with legal access to both legal and technical advice; at times Mr Carter felt he was being "blinded with science".

In the long run what counted for Mr Carter—and for anyone else who goes along the arbitration road—are two human qualities: determination and honesty. "I am a Lancastrian and I would sooner be drowned than done," he says—and the conviction that he was right.

With hindsight Mr Carter's case offers more guidance to defendants than it does to future plaintiffs. It is quite

likely that had his original complaint been dealt with in a different manner, Mr Carter might not have been goaded as he felt into taking this action—which after all amounted to over 18 months.

The case itself was delayed by a mixture of incidents but once it got under way Mr Carter, himself a negotiator of no little experience, was impressed by the "endless patience" of the registrar who heard the case in a very informal and relaxed manner and finally decided that the gunsmiths were in the wrong.

Mr Carter reflects that his awareness of the small claims procedure was "part of his general body of knowledge" which he quickly reinforced with a trip to the county court to obtain the relevant booklet—*Small Claims in the County Court*—good and sufficient in his opinion.

In fact, going to the county court seems to be the simplest part of any prolonged or litigious dispute. And right, or even wrong, clearly cannot be frightened off.

Margaret Stone

Investor's week

Corporate fears unsettle market

The storm clouds gathered over the stock market this week as fears that corporate profits are about to take a dive were given added impetus by a batch of disappointing results.

There were few buyers around to take up any of the slack as investors wound out their positions before the Budget.

The slump of the secondary oil sector and the Australian market also played a part. Wednesday saw the largest fall in the FT Ordinary Share index this year when it closed some 10 points lower on the day.

On the week the index at 439.9 showed a fall of 15.8 points.

Fears of higher interest rates—and there are thoughts that the United States prime rate could touch 19 per cent—saw investors switching out of the commodities market but there were few signs that the cash found a new home in the stock market.

Surprisingly, disappointing results from Turner & Newall, Rolls-Royce Motors and BSR gave many of the Blue Chips a cold as few investors could muster any optimism for forthcoming figures.

ICI warned that it was cutting back capital spending largely because of its pessimistic view of the world economy; the group's latest balance sheet

showed a sharp drop in liquid resources.

The week's banking figures also illustrated the pressures on the corporate sector although the implications for the monetary supply were not as serious since it remains within the government target range—by there seems little scope for any reduction in interest rates in the Budget.

One bright sector was retailing where an upsurge in big activity has been supporting many of the second line stocks. J. H. P. came into the open with a bid for W. E. Turner while shareholders in both Status Discount and Maple—where the shares are already suspended—are still awaiting the identity and terms of any deal. Moreover, Woolworth's results showed more sparkle than expected.

The focus on small retailers helped such stocks as E. J. Riley and J. O. Walker to gain ground.

The oil sector, however, did not fair so well. Hit by a disappointing drilling test, Siebe, and group operator Marathon, both fell heavily taking many of the other secondary oil shares with them. BP, by contrast, gained a few pence on the back of better than expected figures.

Alison Mitchell

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Water rates

Big rises in the pipeline

Water rates will rise this April an estimated 22 per cent, will bring the cost of water and sewerage services to domestic consumers to an average of 81p a week, a seemingly innocent increase of a penny a day. The sum lies in word "average" for your rates bill is calculated on a variable value of your use and not on the amount of water you use.

Like the 4.5 million owners of the Thames Water Authority which predicts a 1980 of 23 per cent. The average value of £270 will give a £48 water bill this year whereas someone in a rated property will face a bill of about £39.

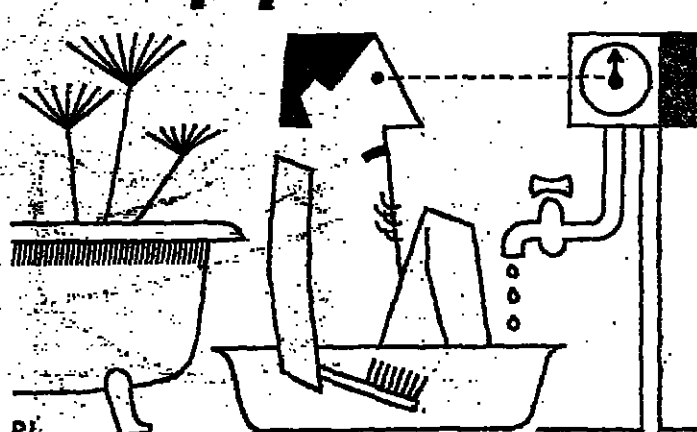
There are more modest rises in London with figure rateable values. On of large general rate rises, a Hampshire man, for instance, might be paying £80 a year, whether he uses more water than the man pay £39.

The last couple of years, annual water charges have been a further welcome addition to the family bill. So this further increase which owns three years of average rises of 16 per cent?

The blame cannot be laid at door of the water authorities. They have statutory powers to raise rates, not the price of water to be directly related to the cost of the water.

From 1978, domestic water included the cost of sewage and waste disposal. Individual bills rose initially to help pay for the rising and maintenance of essential services. Also, there has been the removal of government rate support which this year would have been worth £300m. The £200m would go a long way towards what the National Council estimates it will cost to stop the country's sewerage deteriorating, but no one is near to the £50,000m it would cost to replace them.

Like many other services, water and its disposal have to be self-financing. In other words, the costs of de-



R.L.

livery, removal, and replacement start right at the household's kitchen sink. This longer term problem—water supply and sewerage—illustrated last year in the North Western Water Authority, responsible for seven million consumers as far apart as Crewe and Carlisle.

The authority has 3,500 miles of sewers. A Manchester sewer collapsed in 1979 led to several central street closures. To put the authority's sewers right will cost £100m a year for the next 20 years. That burden will have to be met by the consumers, and increasingly the domestic ones.

One can add to that bill the extra cost of the offer to water workers of over 20 per cent, which could raise water bills by as much as three times over and above the inevitable increases for this year. And remember, you will still be paying according to the rateable value of the place you live in rather than how much water you use.

Why not meter water in the same way as gas and electricity? The traditional answer has always been that historically water is regarded as a vital public service and that no restraint should be placed on its use.

Water metering is common in industry, where the principle is to sell as much as you can to the industrial consumer and then charge them by the cubic metre. It has also been the domestic practice for Malvern's 10,000 consumers since the turn of the century. The authorities cannot tell

you why Malvern's water was originally metered. It was probably to stop the locals setting up in the bottling business. Yet Malvern householders today have a positive advantage over similar water users elsewhere. Turning on a Malvern tap costs £14.60 a year against £23.80 for other householders in the same area. That, though, does not include the cost of disposal and sewerage.

The true disincentive to domestic water metering lies in those figures. If the household decides to use less, the water authorities' revenue will accordingly be decreased and costs will have to rise. It is the same logic as that of the electricity authorities, and just as nonsensical.

In the economics of the water supply industry, there is another disincentive. The water authorities have to raise their own capital, and the industry already ranks among the country's largest borrowers. Southern Water's forthcoming 28 per cent increase in charges has been blamed in part on spiralling interest rates on their outstanding loans. Add to that the £1,000m spread over a decade that the authorities would have to pay out to install some 20 million domestic meters, and their reluctance to advance the idea becomes more understandable.

But the Severn-Trent Authority has agreed in principle to install meters at their domestic consumers' request—and cost—initially from April 1981. That date has been postponed until a possible 1983 due directly to the Government cut-back in public expenditure.

The meter would be issued by the water authority, and read and repaired by them. The rate charged for water used would include an element for sewage disposal. The other element in the water bill—land and highway drainage—would still stand against the rateable value, which would be some 5p in the pound. That an authority serving 2.5 million homes would be prepared to offer metering to the domestic consumer is far more than a straw in the wind. It clearly shows the way the wind is blowing.

Those who remember the Great Drought of '76, when water authorities claimed their increases in charges must be put down to damage and the loss of revenue through selling less water, should pay heed to 1978's mayor of Slough. Protesting against the iniquity of the present rateable value water charging system, he vowed: "From now on I will take four baths a day. But do not try it, should you ever get a meter."

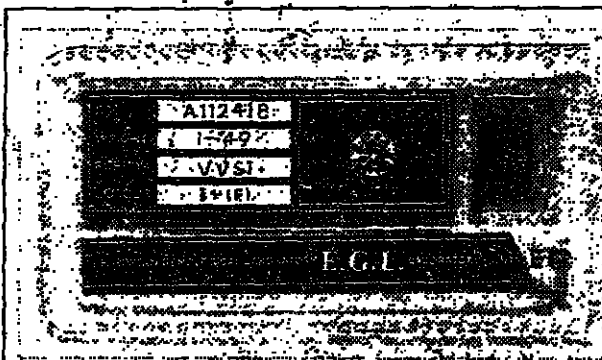
Roger Beard

Investment in Diamonds.

Many investors, seeking balance in their portfolios, are now asking their professional advisers about investment in diamonds. With the purchasing power of money under a constant assault from inflation more investors have come to recognise diamonds as a ready rewarding store of value. Why is this?

WHY INVEST IN DIAMONDS?

- In the face of inflation, monetary and political instability, diamond investment offers three prime attractions.
- The opportunity to protect capital in real purchasing terms against inflation and currency devaluation.
- The safety resulting from the unique stability on which the diamond market is founded.
- The security of an international asset, marketed worldwide and not dependent upon any one economy.



Several major diamond laboratories seal diamonds after certification in tamper-proof packets, together with a microfilm of the original certificate. Illustrated is a diamond sealed by the European Gemmological Laboratory in Antwerp.

The following figures compare the actual purchase prices (in US dollars) of diamonds bought by our own clients from October 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 with published prices in October 1979.

Purchase Date	Price Oct. 75	Price Oct. 76	Price Oct. 77	Price Oct. 78	Price Oct. 79
October 75	8,281.35	10,311.55	18,530.00	34,335.00	
October 76	14,860.10	15,086.35	24,073.00	38,553.00	
October 77		5,464.00	10,655.50	18,983.00	
October 78			6,200.00	11,100.00	

You may also be interested to know that:

- NO DIAMEXPANSION CLIENT HAS EVER SUFFERED A LOSS WHEN SELLING DIAMONDS THROUGH US.
- DURING 1979 THE AVERAGE INCREASE IN THE \$ VALUE OF OUR CLIENTS' DIAMOND HOLDINGS WAS 30.9%.
- DIAMEXPANSION MANAGES THE DIAMOND BOND—THE ONLY DIAMOND FUND LISTED BY THE FINANCIAL TIMES—WHICH HAS RISEN BY 70% SINCE IT WAS LAUNCHED 18 MONTHS AGO.

WHAT ARE INVESTMENT QUALITY DIAMONDS?

Only 20% of all diamonds mined are suitable for cutting and polishing and of these less than one stone in a hundred is suitable for investment. Major advances in the standards of grading polished diamonds have made it possible to issue highly detailed certificates of quality, pinpointing the exact characteristics of each stone and enabling it to be priced with great accuracy.

PRICE STABILITY

Some investment media fluctuate wildly but diamonds benefit from the resources of skill, organisation and finance built up by a group of companies known generally as the Central Selling Organisation—part of the De Beers Group—which markets some 85% of the world's rough diamond production. Not once during its 46 year history has the C.S.O. reduced the price of rough diamonds, even when new deposits have been discovered.

WHO ARE DIAMEXPANSION?

Gone are the days when the only way to buy diamonds for investment was through a local retail "dealer" selling small leather pouches of uncut stones of unknown quality and even less known value. Today, some of the biggest names in the diamond industry have associated themselves with specialist firms dealing only in the highest quality diamonds suitable for investment. Diamexpansion is the leading such company in the UK specialising in diamond investment. It is already widely known amongst professional investment advisers and has an outstanding record of success in achieving substantial growth in the value of its clients' diamond holdings. The Company's experts belong to the limited number of buyers invited to purchase rough diamonds from C.S.O. and they are members of the Antwerp Diamond Bourse and Diamond Club.

A COMPLETE INVESTMENT SERVICE

Certification
Each diamond supplied by Diamexpansion is accompanied by an independent certificate issued by one of the leading international grading laboratories, together with a further identification certificate signed by a member of the Antwerp Diamond Bourse or Diamond Club, and bearing the official stamp of the Bourse or Club. Diamexpansion warrants that every diamond it supplies conforms to the detailed description contained in these two certificates.

Pricing
Diamexpansion publishes one of the most comprehensive diamond price lists currently available, covering over 1,000 different categories determined by weight, colour and clarity.

Resale
Diamexpansion undertakes to resell, on your behalf, any diamond it supplies. But to prevent short term speculation we restrict this facility to diamonds held for a minimum of two years. You may instruct Diamexpansion to resell your diamond holding at published list price, less a fixed brokerage, at any time thereafter.

Reports and Valuations
Once you have made your investment, you will receive twice-yearly informed reports on the diamond market and Diamexpansion services, together with a full valuation of your investment on an annual basis.

Investment Financing
In conjunction with AMROBANK in Holland Diamexpansion offer special low interest loans for the purchase of diamonds at up to 60% of their value and for periods of 3 to 5 years, without status enquiry!

THE FUTURE

While diamond prices have risen consistently in the past, there can of course be no guarantee that they will do so in the future. Although any investment can fall as well as rise in value, we strongly believe that prices of investment quality diamonds will increase substantially as demand grows and the supply of high quality stones becomes more and more restricted.

ARE YOU A PROSPECTIVE INVESTOR?

Investment in diamonds should not be on a short term speculative basis but should form the medium to long-term protection of a planned, balanced portfolio. As a minimum you should be able to invest £3,000.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DIAMONDS

Diamexpansion produce a comprehensive information package on investment in diamonds. It's yours for the asking—send the coupon to Diamexpansion's Freepost address or have a word with your financial adviser.

DIAMEXPANSION

The Leading Name in Diamond Investment

To: Diamexpansion (U.K.) Limited,
Freepost, Brighton BN1 1ZW.

☐ Please send me further information.
☐ I would like to know more about diamonds.
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone (Area) _____

The M&G YEAR BOOK 1980

M&G's Year Book, designed as an aide-memoire for professional advisers, is now available for private investors interested in M&G's wide range of investments and financial services.

To: M&G Group Ltd, Three Clays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-626 4588. Please send me a free copy of the M&G Year Book 1980.

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THE M&G GROUP

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilt-edged shake off Wall Street gloom

The London stock market opened on a gloomy note with Wall Street's downturn and the news of Citibank's increase in prime rate to 13 1/2 per cent pushing it 9.98 lower to 809.56. Investors were further depressed by the outcome of the Southend by-election where the Conservative majority was slashed.

A downward drift in equity prices was also accentuated by the prospect of at least two more weeks of the steel strike and a lack of activity ahead of the Budget. But despite all the bad news at the end of the first week of the account, gilts were firmer throughout the day and one or two equity sectors staged slight rallies during the day.

Oils provided the most interest once again, with the major stocks losing ground as continued rumours about increased petroleum revenue persisted and windfall profit taxes were also linked with the banks. Among the second-line oils, the third bid for Viking Oil appeared from Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt's petroleum group at 450p plus one royalty. At one point, the share price gained 70p in 30 minutes but later dropped to 1,050p, an overall gain of 35p. Clyde Petroleum, which announced a good oil find on Block 16/21, gained 27p to 352p while the major stocks slipped back. BP's was the steepest fall, 18p to 350p.

Mines also started the day badly as the gold price dropped to near \$500 an ounce—its lowest level since before Christmas—but the gold share prices were taken off the bottom after

in the day following the South African Government's announcement that gold production would be withheld.

In gilts, longs bucked the market trend, going steadily better throughout the day, and closed at their best levels with gains of 1/2. Shorts opened easier with the influence of the prime rate increase, but man- aged to get back to the previous day's levels and closed 1/16 better after a slow session.

The FT index closed 7.1 down at 439.9 with the gradual slide taking place throughout the day. On the leading industrials pitch there was little selling. ICI lost 6p to 364p in the aftermath of the chairman's comments on capital expenditure, while Glaxo and Beecham both lost 4p to 246p and 118p respectively. Unilever saw a 5p fall to 435 and Dunlop, BAT Industries (still considered a possible bidder for Debenhams) and Pilkington were all

unchanged at 60p, 236p and 213p. Midland Bank's results, at £315m, slightly better than some estimates, took 3p off the price to 330p, while other companies which produced figures also saw falls. Bracken Mines were clipped 5c to 395c and Kinross Mines dropped \$1 to 91.

While it still looks as if Waring and Gilroy, the furniture retailer, will finally emerge as the bidder for Maple Holdings, its Tottenham Court Road neighbour, Maple's price, unchanged at 27p, before a 30p share bid will look attractive in view of the sharp earnings recovery.

The bid for Furness Withy from Mr C. Y. Tung was finally agreed at 420p a share and the price jumped 8p to 280p. Profit-takers moved in on African UK after bid speculation and it dropped back from 103p to 96p.

Montague L. Meyer's price also fell 4p to 116p after its recent bid inspired gains. MFI Furniture, tipped as a possible bidder for Status Discount which was suspended on Thursday, continued to fall and lost 4p to 81p. W. H. Smith, which could also be negotiating a trading agreement with Status over its Homestores division, was unchanged at 140p. Channel Tunnel saw the most dramatic shift as 30p was knocked from the price to 140p as renewed thoughts of a link with the continent died away.

De La Rue fell 23p to 615p as rumours of a rights issue began to circulate, while United Biscuits which called for £34m the previous day saw a 4p drop to 80p.

BIR and Barratt Developments, both of which are reporting on Monday, had their prices shaved 6p to 326p and 4p to 121p respectively. On the electricals side, where Plico is due to publish interim figures next week, there was

some nervous selling and the price closed 2p down at 130p. GEC lost 5p to 369p and Racal's price was clipped by 2p to 207p. Hoover put on 5p to 145p after fears that its products were being used as loss-leaders in discount stores.

Prices were steady among the engineers with Hawker Siddeley unchanged at 170p and Tubes, which is due to report next week, remained at 284. KGN saw a 6p loss to 260p and Metal Box fell 4p to 246p.

The other clearing banks followed Midland and lost a few pence. Barclays, which is the last of the 'big four' to produce results next week, was 3p down at 420p, while NatWest lost 2p to 323p.

Schroders, which boosted profits and proposed a scrip issue on Thursday, added 20p to 490p. Although Bass, among the breweries, shed 4p in the day over fears about Budget increases, it closed 2p up at 216p. Allied lost 1p to 71p.

Mines shares receded at the beginning of the day as the price but there was some recovery during the day, although Cons Gold was 1p down at 477p and RTZ lost 13p to 360p. The Australians were the case at D. S. Rivlin, the Cardiff-based clothing and textiles group. Interim figures for the six months to October 31, show pretax profits dropping from £17,900 to £7,800 on turnover drastically cut from £3m to £1.9m. To add to the problems, the interim dividend has been passed and the final payment is expected to go the same way. The last payment was an interim of 1.7p gross back in 1977.

However, moves are afoot to put the group, which last year lost £3,000, back on a healthier footing. Mr A. J. Vogel, chairman, who was brought in eight months ago to undertake some urgent surgery, says that the worst is now over and the group can now concentrate on growth generated internally.

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Burnside Investments: Turnover for half-year to November 20 rose from £3m to £3.7m, but pre-tax profits fell from £130,000 to £95,000. Interim dividend cut from 0.74p to 0.57p gross. Board warns that a loss must be expected for the second half-year.

Sunbeam Welsley Turnover (Irish currency) for 1979 rose from £23.05m to £24m. Pre-tax profits, £1.48m (£1.44m). Total net dividend raised from 3.3p to 4p per share.

Conder exceeds profit forecast

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A two-fifths increase in pre-tax profits to £2.45m from Conder International in the year to December 31 was marginally above the forecast of £2.4m made when the group came to the market last November.

Sales of the group's steel-framed buildings rose by 39 per cent to £92.6m. Exports increased faster than home sales and at £22.4m accounted for nearly a quarter of group sales. The main overseas markets remain the Middle East and Asia.

As forecast, the year's dividend is 10p gross. The shares were unchanged on the results and at 110p, compared with a price of 90p at which the group placed 18 per cent of the equity last November, the yield is 9.1 per cent. The p/e ratio is 7.7 on a full tax-charge. On the actual provision for tax, it falls to 4.1.

The outlook for 1980 is clouded by the steel strike and the group says it is too early to assess the effects which the strike may have on its results. Conder has already lost a £2m export order for an aluminium smelter in the Middle East, which went to the Japanese because Conder could not guarantee steel supplies. However, the United Kingdom order book is stronger than a year ago and well spread between the public and private sectors.

Sale of the year for year to November 30, 1979, up from £2.45m to £2.65m. Pre-tax profits rose from £1.84m to £2.18m. Total payment raised from 8.21p (adjusted for scrip issue) to 9.64p.

Hunt emerges as third bidder for Viking

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The auction for Viking Oil, which started yesterday, with the emergence of Hunt International Petroleum as a third potential bidder, has had talks with Viking which may lead to an offer worth £450 for each Viking share plus a royalty unit dependent on future production and similar to those already offered by the two previous bidders, Sun Company and the German oil company Deminor.

The cash element of Hunt's proposed offer is 50p more than Sun was offering and puts a cash value on Viking Oil of £10.8m. Yesterday, Viking shares, which are traded under Rule 163 (3), closed at £10.50—up 35p on the day.

The directors of Viking, who have recommended acceptance of both the two previous offers, are now holding fire pending clarification of the Hunt approach.

Already shareholders in Viking holding 30 per cent of the

equity have irrevocably taken to accept the Sun offer.

The proposed offer by Hunt would be conditional on no third party making a more attractive offer, its intention to offer for all or not less a majority of the ore shares of Viking at a price than the Hunt offer. The original bidder, Deminor, announced yesterday before Hunt emerged as a possible bidder, that it was considering whether or not to offer. Deminor's offer, said S. G. Warburg, said the position was unchanged. The Hunt announcement, said Viking and Hunt are closely associated in the Sea. Viking's main asset is 20 per cent interest in the P212 covering Blocks 1 and 211/8A on the UK continental shelf. The other 8 per cent is held by Hunt national.

H S Canada profits rise

Full year figures from Hawker Siddeley Canada, a subsidiary of the United Kingdom Hawker Siddeley, show a substantial increase in performance over last year.

Pre-tax profits for the year to December 1979 rose from £37.9m to £50.5m on turnover up from £554.0m to £598m. Earnings a share are £3.69 compared with £3.01 and

dividend payments account £35.03m against £33.42m.

The group started the year with a substantial order which it felt at the time would be through most of the year which it has Toronto, is involved in engineering activities including repair, transport and mining industry.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Bridgewater Esds (F)	(—)	1.25(0.3)	(—)	11.5(10)	—	16(14.5)
Burnside Inv (I)	5.37(5.0)	0.09(0.13)	0.41(0.53)	0.25(0.5)	6/5	(—)(1.1)
Conder Int (F)	92.6(66.6)	2.46(1.76)	27.1(23.7)	4.0(1.22)	19/5	7.0(1.22)
Goodman Bros (F)	7.62(6.38)	0.33(0.32)	1.67(1.58)	(—)	—	(—)(0.96)
Midland Bk (F)	(—)	315.5(231.4)	117.4(88.8)	12.5(9.94)	—	20(16.44)
I. D. & S. Rivlin (I)	1.9(3.1)	0.007(0.02)	0.27(0.06*)	(—)	—	(—)
Sunbeam Welsley (F)	24.0(23.05)	1.48(1.44)	13.5(14.3)	3.0(2.88)	23/5	4.0(3.85)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * Loss.

RETAIL PRICES

The following are the index numbers (January 15, 1974 = 100) for retail prices, not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Employment yesterday.

	(1) All items	(2) All items except seasonal goods	(3) Annual rate of increase in (2) over month earlier (%)
1979			
Feb.	208.9	209.1	8.9
March	210.6	210.6	9.3
April	214.2	214.0	11.6
May	215.9	215.9	13.6
June	219.9	219.4	15.6
July	220.2	220.2	22.3
Aug.	230.9	232.1	22.1
Sept.	233.2	234.6	22.5
Oct.	235.6	237.0	21.0
Nov.	237.7	238.9	22.5
Dec.	239.4	240.5	20.2
1980			
Jan.	245.3	246.2	14.5
Feb.	248.8	249.8	15.8

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in January, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1975 = 100)

	Total	Manufacturing
industries	industries	industries
1979		
January	105.1	95.3
February	112.3	105.4
March	113.2	107.7
April	113.4	106.0
May	116.9	108.8
June	116.2	108.5
July	116.1	107.0
August	112.5	102.3
September	111.2	100.5
October	112.1	102.8
November	114.8	105.8
December	112.5	105.6
1980		
January	112.2	102.9
% rise in latest 3 months over previous 3 months	+1.0	+2.2

Panel censures three Gilgate directors

By Our Financial Staff

Three directors of property investment and development group Gilgate Holdings have been "severely censured" by the Takeover Panel.

Mr John Kidd, Mr David Lucas and Mr Christopher Reynolds, in the panel's view, should never have engaged in the purchase of Gilgate shares which led to a Rule 34 obligation to bid as they did not have the financial means to carry out that bid.

The panel adds: "Moreover the directors' obligation and concealed purchase of shares on July 2, 1976. The fact

that they left this purchase till a year and a day after the earlier purchase on July 1, 1975, thereby avoiding the obligation to make an offer at a much higher price, indicates that they were well aware of the provisions of the code."

The statement went on to say that Mr Kidd, who is chairman, and his colleagues have undertaken to pursue certain measures "which might possibly at some future date realize for shareholders some indemnification value for their investment in Gilgate."

It adds that these measures will be closely monitored.

Recovery under way at Rivlin

By Our Financial Staff

Drastic action calls for drastic measures and this is very much the case at D. S. Rivlin, the Cardiff-based clothing and textiles group.

Interim figures for the six months to October 31, show pretax profits dropping from £17,900 to £7,800 on turnover drastically cut from £3m to £1.9m. To add to the problems, the interim dividend has been passed and the final payment is expected to go the same way. The last payment was an interim of 1.7p gross back in 1977.

However, moves are afoot to put the group, which last year lost £3,000, back on a healthier footing. Mr A. J. Vogel, chairman, who was brought in eight months ago to undertake some urgent surgery, says that the worst is now over and the group can now concentrate on growth generated internally.

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Lonrho wins 'overwhelming' majority

Continued from page 17

Though profits fell during the year from £93.6m to £84m, the period had opened with a "clean bill of health" from the Monopolies Commission after its investigation into the company in connection with the takeover bid for Scottish and Universal Investments, (Suits).

This was good for the share price and enabled the group's short term funding to be converted into longer term loans. On the question of the increased capital Lord Sandys said unissued and uncommitted shares represented only 11 per cent of the authorized capital. Most other overseas traders had a much higher percentage.

On the future he quoted press reports on the good profits prospects. But he refused to commit himself further in spite of the fact that the Lonrho board, a director, told financial analysts in Zurich earlier in the week that the company expected £120m to £150m profits this year.

But the tension mounted as four directors were re-elected, virtually unopposed, the auditors were voted in and resolution eight on increasing the capital came up.

Lord Sandys had almost rushed into the voting before he was acknowledged Mr Edwin Walker-Arnott, of Robert Fleming & Wornall, a representative of Gulf Fisheries.

In clipped tones Mr Walker-Arnott argued that the creation of 40 million new shares would leave £65 million shares over-



Mr Walker-Arnott (left) and Mr Ferguson, representative of Gulf Fisheries, observe the proceedings.

hauling the market, thus depressing the share price.

"This must be contrary to the interests of shareholders", he said.

He called on the board to make any future acquisitions for cash and to raise that cash by means of a rights issue. Any new shares should not be issued until after the interim figures had been digested by the market. And he asked for assurances that the board's statement in the annual report that it had no present intention of increasing the shares should be restated.

The chairman said the board

withdrew nothing it had said had acted responsibly and a resolution was not unnecessary. He said it would be wise to tie the hands of the board.

Between 15 and 20 were raised against the resolution and the chairman called an "overwhelming" majority.

The resolution on the share issue was defeated. Du Cann who reported that Mr George Bolton had looked into the possibility of buying the stake for some time. He stressed the board's intention of acting immediately but the resolution would be free to do so.

THE ALLIANCE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

The following is the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. David F. McCurrach, circulated with the Annual Report for the year to 31st January 1980.

Having presided for 12 years and being due to retire from the Board in two years' time, I think it right, while remaining a Director, to step aside from the Chair now. Your Directors have appointed Mr. George Dunn as your new Chairman and we all offer him our fullest confidence and support. He will take over at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

RESULTS

Earnings are almost 25% higher at 10.33p including an exceptional 0.65p of arrears of dividends from Shell Transport & Trading and British Petroleum. Without this special factor the increase would be 17%. Franked investment income rose by £1,286,000 as U.K. dividends were freed from dividend restraint. Sterling unfranked income was down because of a smaller investment in U.K. gilts but this was more than counterbalanced by greater income from funds invested in short term deposits during a period of rapidly rising interest rates. Although overseas investment income was greater in foreign currency terms, there was no net benefit due to the continuing strength of sterling against most other currencies. However, royalty income from oil-bearing land in the U.S.A. was a record at £87,000 which, together with £90,000 received from bonus payments and rentals on leases (credited to Capital Reserve), reflects the present high level of oil prices and activity in exploration. These interests now have a value far in excess of the Balance Sheet figure of £30,000: a valuation is being secured.

Your Directors recommend a final dividend of 6.35p making a total of 10.0p (including 0.65p in respect of arrears of dividends received) against 8.0p last year, an increase of 25%. Although growth of income cannot be expected to repeat last year's exceptional pace, a further rise may be anticipated this year in the absence of any major change in investment policy. Our earnings estimate for 1980/81 already stands at 10.74p.

INVESTMENT POLICY

While our valuation of £154,892,000 did not match the record level of last year this was entirely due to the dismantling of exchange controls during the year which eliminated the investment currency premium. Without the premium at both dates our valuation rose by 10%.

The feature of the year was the strength of oil and oil equipment shares, particularly in the U.S.A. where several of our holdings more than doubled in price. Oil stocks were well represented in our published list of the 40 largest investments. We have added almost £6 million to our Far East and continental equities and over £2 million to German bond holdings, while reducing exposure to U.K. equities by £5.3 million and U.S. equities by £2.6 million.

During its first full year of operations our leasing subsidiary wrote £3.4 million of business with lessees of the highest credit. Profitability is well up to expectations and should be reflected in the accounts as the portfolio matures in 1981-82 onwards.

INFLATION AND INVESTMENT

Perhaps in a final speech I may be allowed some personal observations at large on the besetting economic evil of our times—inflation—and its bearing on productive investment. The weakness of investment in the U.K. is secondary only to the other evil. A few years ago it was common to speak of the going rate of inflation as a function of expectations. Now, alas, expectations have become institutionalised in a host of devices, outstandingly escalation and indexation. These may originally have had some merit to the extent that, as in pensions, they protected the weak. But they have been taken over by the strong and it was always predictable that they would only aggravate the curse. The big unions in the U.S. built escalation into their contracts years ago and the going rate is implicit in the starting point for all U.K. negotiations. Now OPEC has taken it over in fixing oil prices. We have reached the stage where we are all the victims of our own simple arithmetic, but at compound interest. And we have a built-in ratchet, perpetuating rises but preventing falls. All this has not lessened, but enlarged, the distortions and strains—and the inequities. There is also the damaging contrast between those countries swallowing the illusion (we are an extreme case) and those few, like Germany, who have not. But above all, coming closer to our own affairs and bearing directly on the future living standards of both the weak and the strong, inflation in alliance with these devices and coupled with the measures designed to counter them, threatens to sterilise all new productive investment. Confidence

Alliance Trust Ordinary Dividends	13.7 times
F.T. Index Dividends	5.2 times
Alliance Trust Net Asset Value	14.0 times
F.T. Index	4.1 times
Alliance Trust Share Price	10.1 times
Cost of Living Index	6.1 times

These results cover nearly three decades of the most violent and rapid change in trade and finance world-wide, as well as continuous tight and changing Government controls and two major restructurings of the tax system, all of these hitting us badly and vastly complicating our task. None the less, and despite the widened discount in our share price against asset value, the long-term holder has been not merely protected against inflation on both income and capital, but well rewarded.

We have today a fine management and staff team supported by the most advanced technical

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Talib Akbar	c	Bordest	8	Lawson	..
Bashir Kardar	c	Mahar	5	Dymock	..
Bahm Yuzuf	c	Mahar	5	Lawson	..
Rasid Khan	1-b-w	b	Dymock	..	
Huss Khan	1-b-w	b	Lawson	..	
Mohammedin	not out				
Amin Lakhani	c	Lawson	b		
Extras	6 3	1-b 6	n-b 10		
Total					
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-66 2-					
204	284	287	289	2	
204	205	312	323		
NOWING: Lawson, 1c 1-16					
Dymock	20	Frighi	Malabar	10-	
Aard	11-0	51-0	Bordest	2-1	
18-0	-Reuter.				

SPORT

Ice skating



Bouquets for a loser: Robin Cousins with supporter after his silver medal performance.

Returning to earth after Cousins

From John Hemmery

Dortmund, March 14

After the excitement of the night before, comes the cold reality of the morning after that we have seen the last of Robin Cousins as a competitive skater. It is a sad prospect, I cannot recall the same mood of depression on the corresponding occasion four years ago at the end of "Curry's year".

Perhaps it is because of Cousins' spine-tingling success in the free skating section last night. Perhaps it is because one warms more to him as a person, and certainly to the loyal family that gathers protectively around him.

But perhaps, at base, one is haunted by the thought that there is no obvious successor in sight. It is a measure of the poverty of talent at home that whereas we were entitled to send three skaters, as a result of Cousins' second place last year, he, in fact, is unrepresented.

Four years ago, Cousins' talent was already so advanced, at 18, that he was a strong challenger to Curry in the British championship that season. The East German, the Russian and the American have all taken up their full entitlement, the Americans most successfully, but we even abandoned the original second entry, Christopher Horowitz, because of his poor showing in the

Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. There may be some lean years ahead though successively we may hope for medals of some hue from our ice dance champions, Joyce Ford and Christopher Dean, from Deborah Cottrill, a late-developing 17-year-old, and from our still younger pair of skaters, Susan Garland (13) and Robert Daw (16).

Cousins leaves the scene with a glorious flourish. The best free skating performance I've ever done in my life, he said afterwards. He was not too disappointed at missing the World title, because I've had my fair share this year. I've won seven out of eight competitions. I was glad for Jan Hoffmann, he said, that he had finally been rewarded for his hard work.

This morning Cousins felt "just as warm as glow as after winning the Olympic gold", but for a different reason. He had won at Lake Placid in spite of, for him, a disappointing free programme. Here he had lost the gold medal, in spite of five minutes of sheer magic that created instant legends. Young girls were present in the stands, and the skaters afterwards in order to get a glimpse of their new young hero.

Cousins' individual: 1. J. Hoffmann (GDR) 118.74; 2. R. Daw (GB) 118.74; 3. S. R. R. (GB) 118.74.

For the record

Golf

MILWAUKEE: U.S. Open, 67-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-12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